

# MAGAZINE

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## THE JOPLIN TORNADO:



*Vivid memories still linger 15 years later*



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Latchkey Program teaches children life-saving techniques they can put to use.



**Pages 18-19**

New shopping centers, Mall expansion will provide added variety in Joplin.



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Ancient arts of fortune telling, card-reading are still alive in the four-state area.

# MAGAZINE

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On May 5, 1971, a devastating tornado ripped through the heart of Joplin, doing millions of dollars in damage. From there, it headed towards the Missouri Southern campus where night classes were in session. A Southern student was killed when the twister struck the Anderson Mobile Park east of the campus. Here's a fascinating look at the memories which still linger in the minds of witnesses 15 years later.

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On the cover: Joplin residents in the Anderson Mobile Home park begin the task of picking up after a devastating tornado struck Joplin on May 5, 1971. Related articles and photographs appear on pages 6-9.

## From tornadoes to fortune tellers:

## Introductory notes on this issue

Welcome to the third edition of Chart Magazine! This issue offers a wide and diverse variety of subjects, from a look 15 years later at the devastating tornado which ripped through Joplin in 1971 to the mysteries of fortune telling.

Page 3 gives a candid look at one of the favorite pastimes for students at Missouri Southern—playing spades in the Lions' Den. You'll discover what makes the game so enjoyable to some students who participated in a recent tournament.

Then, you'll find an exclusive look at how several individuals managed to conquer chemical addiction through the self-help approach of groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous on pages 4 and 5. The interviews with actual participants reveal the trials and tribulations of persons battling the disease.

Pages 6, 7, and 8 focus on memories of a tornado which struck Joplin on May 5, 1971. The twister touched down in the west part of town, cut a swath down Seventh Street and Fourth Street, and then veered toward the College, just missing the gymnasium. Later, the twister struck the Anderson Mobile Park east of the College on Newman Road. There, Rick Johnson, a Missouri Southern student, was killed by a piece of flying debris. Amazingly, he was the only casualty in the violent storm.

We've managed to contact several persons who were eyewitnesses to the disaster. Ruby Smith, who owned the trailer park where Johnson was killed, gives a fascinating account of seeing the storm approach. Though she did not live in the trailer park, she and Lue Smith were among the first to arrive at the scene.

Perhaps the most unusual stories

are those told by three faculty members who were teaching night classes here when the tornado struck. They, along with several hundred night students, watched in horror as the funnel cloud headed straight toward the campus. Their accounts of the near miss still create vivid images of the storm.

Just as we were getting into research on the storm, we learned that another, more powerful and deadly twister raked the city two years later. Page 9 provides a look at some of the worst damage, and an account of the strange and unusual storm which no one really understands even today. There were no funnel clouds, just hurricane force winds. Damage was widespread, and three persons were killed as a result of the storm.

Pages 10 and 11 provide an interesting look at the way students at Missouri Southern dress. The story describes which components of dress are most important. Photographs of students with various attire enhance an interesting article.

Mark Ernstmann takes us on a personal tour of three area museums on pages 12 and 13. The Dorothea B. Hoover Museum is filled with old furniture, clothing, and countless old photographs of Joplin in the early 1900's. You'll also discover the magic of mining in the Tri-State region with a tour of the Tri-State Mineral Museum.

What's your favorite eating establishment in town? Pages 14 and 15 highlight several "choice" restaurants in Joplin, including interviews with the owners. Joplin has its share of fine restaurants as is evidenced in these articles.

A special program designed to teach children safety tips and techniques is featured on pages 16

and 17. The Latchkey Program has been quite successful, and Lisa Williams gives an in-depth look at how the Program was started, and how children have actually used their knowledge to save lives.

Drive almost anywhere in Joplin and you will find new construction. On pages 18 and 19, Tony Wilson takes a look at some of the recent business developments and shopping centers which seem to be springing up everywhere, especially on 32nd Street in south Joplin.

For the craftsman in you, we have a look at a group of women who enjoy the age-old craft of quilting. Pages 20 and 21 feature several of these women.

Remember the old swimming holes that used to be so popular in the summer time? Chances they're still popular and being frequented by young and old alike. On pages 22 and 23, Cheryl Boyd takes a look at two spots in the four-state area.

Finally, Henri James explores the strange world of a real-life fortune teller in the area. Page 24 describes the typical life of one of these products of the supernatural world.

Most of the articles in this issue have been written by students in Chad Stebbins' Copyediting and Newswriting classes. Planning and design on the production began early in the semester. Photographs were taken by JoAnn Hollis, Linda Lakey, Sue Hopkins, Cheryl Boyd, Larry Meacham, Martin Oetting, and several others.

Pages were designed by members of the Copyediting class. This is the last issue of both The Chart and Magazine this semester.

## Spades Tournaments

Whether it be in the dormitories or the Lions' Den:

# Students continue tradition of playing their hand at spades

By Ken James

It has been said: "If you don't learn anything else at Missouri Southern, you'll learn how to play spades."

Evidently, the saying still rings true.

According to junior Ed Van Fucke, a staff assistant at Webster Hall, spades tournaments in the dormitories have been going on for years.

In fact, he said, "that's the first thing I learned about when I moved into the dorms."

The students learn the tournament, with each person donating \$1 for the jackpot. The winning team splits the profits. There is an attempt to keep the proceedings secret from the staff because gambling is prohibited in the dormitories due to rules against it.

One student, who wished not to be identified, said the main reason spades tournaments are so popular in the dormitories is because of "boredom."

"You've got all these people who don't necessarily want to study, so they've got a lot of time on their hands. Spades tournaments are something to do," he said.

Bill Williams, coordinator of the Campus Activities Board, said the first organizing of tournaments in the Lions' Den came after "we began to notice how many students were sitting in the union playing spades."

"We have about 15 or so decks of cards that we check out to students in return for their student ID," she said. "They are almost always all in use."

Prizes of \$50, \$25, and \$10 were awarded to the top three ranking teams in the CAB-sponsored tournament. Dormitory prizes vary, depending on how many persons participate.

Scotter Turner, a junior who participated in the first CAB tournament, said he had never played spades until coming to Southern.

"I learned how to play on time with the debate squad," he said.

Junior Todd Graham, Turner's partner in the tournament, said he also did not know how to play spades until coming to Southern. He said he learned to play in the dormitories.

Turner said that although he is not positive why playing spades seems to be the only tradition that has stuck with Missouri Southern, he has an idea.

"I suppose it's because spades is so easy to learn that most anyone can grasp the basic game idea, but it's also challenging because the longer you play it, the more complicated you can make it and the better you can become. Other games that are as easy to learn usually don't progress any more; rather they stay the same."



**Playing spades:** Whether it be an organized game in the Lions' Den or a more casual competition between dormitory residents, Southern students have continued the tradition of spades. (Photo by Larry Meacham)

Graham said many students at colleges are involved heavily in card playing, but he could not explain the reason spades was the prevalent game at Southern.

"I guess a lot of it has to do with the fact that it doesn't take long to

learn and it sticks with you," he said.

Turner said the idea of a large number of Southern students knowing how to play spades is not new to him.

"As far as learning spades goes,

I've always heard that Southern is the king of campuses."

While it remains to be seen if other newly-found traditions, such as throwing spools of toilet paper in the air after Southern's first bucket at basketball games, will

rise, spades tournaments appear to have surpassed the rest of time, and will forever be linked with campus life at Southern.

# Groups help people cope

By JoAnn Hollis

[Editor's note: To protect the anonymity of the person involved, only the first name is used.]

For persons who have a chemical dependency problem, whether it be themselves or someone they know, there are others in the same situation willing to listen.

Joplin now has five self-help groups which are accessible to anyone who wishes to join: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Alanon, Naranon, and Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA).

In these groups the members gather in a circle and discuss the problems they are facing and how to deal with them.

"They're open to everybody," said Betty, an active member of three groups. "There are no membership fees. A person can come and not say anything. All the programs are anonymous, and confidentiality is maintained along with anonymity."

Each of the five groups is meant for people in different situations. AA is for those who are dependent on alcohol, and NA is for those who are dependent on any type of narcotic. Alanon, on the other hand, is for those who have friends or relatives who are dependent on alcohol. Naranon is for those who have friends or relatives dependent on narcotics, and ACOA is for children of alcoholics.

"Any type of chemical abuse, which we call substance abuse, is a

family disease," said Betty.

According to her, this is because for every action there is a reaction. In other words, those who are not chemically dependent become involved with the chemical as the person who is using it. This is because their whole purpose in life becomes to control the person who is using the chemical and to stop it.

"Their life becomes as unmanageable and caught up with and obsessed with whatever the chemical is as if they were taking it themselves," she said. "That's why we call all of these addictions family disease."

She also said that when people begin to learn about the disease, they are relieved to know it is not a moral issue, but an illness.

In trying to cope with their problems, each group has a 12-step program which they use to help guide them through life's ups and downs.

"All of the 12-step programs afford a way of living that is the difference between 'living dead' and 'living alive,'" said Betty.

She explained that when a person is living with a practicing, untreated addiction they are "living dead" because the pain is so enormous that they "numb out."

"All of the four programs allow a person to live with freedom, growth, and happiness," she said.

"The bottom line for all of us who are recovering from some kind of chemical involvement, whether it's the chemically dependent or the non-alcoholic person, is lack of self-esteem," said Betty.

Defining self-esteem as how a person feels about himself, Betty said that persons involved with chemical dependency must learn over a period of time that self-esteem is their own responsibility, and that they must learn what it is and how to get it.

Pointing out that addiction is a downward spiral for all involved, Betty said it is important to take steps to intervene.

"The worst thing anybody can do is nothing," she said. "The chances of somebody recovering from one of these life-endangering addictions, whether it be drugs, street drugs, prescription drugs, or alcohol, is if one person has the courage to reach out and ask other people for help and stop the progressive spiral downward."

"There are only three areas that an addicted person can end up—death, insanity, or jail. With intervention, all of these can be eliminated."

For those who realize it is time to get help, Betty said the only step required is to make a phone call to one of the numbers listed in the yellow pages under "Alcoholism Information" and "Treatment Centers." If they do not want to make the call they may simply attend one of the meetings.

AA, NA, Alanon, and ACOA meetings are held at 1212½ Main in Joplin. (The entrance is located off the parking lot behind Wilder's). NA and Naranon meetings are held at 7th and Main streets. (Meetings are held in the basement of Fast Copy Printing)

## THE TWELVE STEPS

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

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"Way of Life": Each of the five self-help groups have a slightly different set of 12 steps which they use as a guide to help them cope with their individual situations from day to day. The set pictured here is used by ACOA members (Adult Children of Alcoholics). (Photo by JoAnn Hollis)



Brochures: Literature to help newcomers understand.



Meeting Room: Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Naranon meet weekly in this room to discuss problems and to support and listen to one another. The room is located in the basement of Fast Copy Printing at 7th and Main in Joplin. Meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Alanon, and Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) are held at 1212½ Main. Anyone who wishes to get involved in the groups, or just wants to listen, is welcomed by group members. All a person has to do is show up. (Photo by JoAnn Hollis)

# Life turns around with aid of group

by JoAnn Hollis

Editor's note: To protect the anonymity of the person involved, only the first name is used.

Previously living in turmoil, Bill's turned around as a result of treatment and becoming involved in the self-help groups Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA).

Bill is the child of a dysfunctional family. A dysfunctional family is one which does not interact with each other in a healthy way.

In his case, his father was an alcoholic. As a child of an alcoholic is a codependent, meaning that he is dependent on a person who is dependent on a chemical substance.

Bill believes that his primary addiction is his codependency.

"Codependency is a disease of denial," he said. "I denied that there was anything wrong with me. It was someone else's fault."

He did, however, carry guilt concerning his father's addiction.

"I felt that it was my fault," he said. "I thought I could do something to make everything OK, but the reality was that I couldn't." Learning to survive in his family being responsible, Bill was the perfect person who everyone liked.

"I had to have people like me because I didn't like myself," he said.

Unable to communicate his emotions and carrying his feelings of guilt, he first turned to alcohol, then

relationships, and finally marijuana to cover up his problems.

"It did work for a while," said Bill. "But it got to a point where it just didn't work."

It finally got too much, and his life hit bottom when he was away at school.

"The pain got enough that I wanted to do something about it," he said.

For Bill, this meant entering a treatment program. Because his father had already undergone treatment, he knew what was available and where to get help.

"They didn't force it on me," he said. "They let me run my own course."

After getting through treatment, he became involved in Narcotics Anonymous. At that time the self-help group for adult children of alcoholics did not exist.

"I had to deal with my addiction first," he said. "You can't deal with anything else if you're under the influence of drugs."

After a year with NA, Bill went into treatment for being an adult child of an alcoholic.

"My recovery began when I realized that both my parents had the same disease I had. They did the best they could," he said, referring to how he had been reared.

When he was recovering from his addiction, Bill blamed his parents for his problems. However, now he realizes that it is a family problem.

"I was recovering from them and now I am recovering with them," he



said. "We all have the same problem."

In mentioning his dependency on relationships, Bill said he was looking for something, but did not know how to give.

"I was really dependent on the girls that I dated," he said.

Not having a role model when he was developing his ideas about love, he thought that a person fell in love and everything was fine. He did not realize it took work.

"Today I have to learn how to do everything," he said. "I learned to start over."

At one point Bill believed that he had given up on life, but with the aid of treatment and the self-help groups NA and ACOA, he now feels that he is starting to do

something with his life.

"I'm learning how to do things different from how I used to do them," he said.

Before becoming involved in NA and ACOA, he did not understand what his problem was. Through his programs he has gained insight on his problem, and knows that he can do something about it.

"Most importantly I've gained self-worth," he said, pointing out that one characteristic of a codependent is that he feels worthless. "I'm not so bad. I'm not any better or worse than anybody."

Having spent his whole life trying to find and prove his "value," Bill realizes now that his worth is within himself for being who he is.

"I don't have to go find it—I have

it," he said.

"I have a long way to go," he said of his recovery. "It took a long time to unlearn 17 years of doing something. It takes a lot of work and a lot of willingness, but it's possible. There is hope for whoever wants it."

"I'm not going to be cured," he said. "It's something you learn to deal with all your life."

In some aspects he is glad that this has happened to him because it gives him the opportunity to help other people who have the same problem.

"It's given me a new outlook on life," he said of the program. "I feel like I can make it now."

## Woman finds 'sanity' in treatment, self-help groups

by JoAnn Hollis

Editor's note: To protect the anonymity of the person involved, the subject's real name is not used.

Coming from an alcoholic family and marrying alcoholic, Amy's life was confused, but through treatment and self-help groups she found her "sanity."

"Coming from a dysfunctional family that involved alcoholism, I looked for a person with those same characteristics," Amy said.

"I looked for somebody that I could mother and help and take care of."

Being involved with persons with the disease of alcoholism, Amy is codependent, and this codependency was wrecking her life. Finally, she hit bottom and decided to do something about it.

"You get to the point where you've taken all you can take," she said.

Reaching this point, Amy looked

for help. She said she wanted help so badly that she drove herself to her first Alanon meeting, knowing no one there.

"I had no where else to turn because no one else understood," she said.

"I had heard about Alanon several years before I actually went to a meeting," said Amy, "but out of fear I didn't go."

Amy said she kept going back to the meetings because of the tremendous amount of warmth and love that she felt there. She felt that she could talk to the people at the meetings because they understood and no one else did.

"There were people there I could identify with, that were in the same situation," she said. "I kept going back because I found myself getting a little more sane each time I went."

After attending meetings for a short period of time, Amy decided to go through a month of treatment to help her deal with her problems. After treatment she got a divorce.

One thing that she still must contend with is the fact that she still is and probably always will be attracted to the alcoholic personality.

"If I had not gone through treatment I would have gone right back into another alcoholic marriage," said Amy.

With the aid of treatment and the self-help groups Alanon and Naranon, she is now able to realize when she is getting into the same situation she was in before, and how to deal with it and get out of it.

"I know that I don't have to live in an alcoholic relationship," she said, "and that I deserve a lot better and that eventually I will be able to have a healthy relationship with someone."

Having been involved with Alanon and Naranon for over two years now, Amy has acquired some positive feelings about the program.

"There is just so much love and understanding," she said. "I always go away from a meeting feeling good."

She did point out that persons who attend meetings must speak up for themselves if they have something they need to talk about. No one will "pull it out of them."

"The only time I've gone away from a meeting feeling bad is when I needed to speak up and didn't," she said.

Having a busy schedule, Amy missed her weekly meetings for approximately two months. During this time she felt her life was beginning to fall apart again. It was then that she realized that she was running from something she needed to deal with. She returned to the meetings.

"I know that I need those meetings every week in order for my life to stay sane," she said.

Amy said that no matter what was happening in her life, it was always happening to someone else and that they could identify with it and were there to listen to her.

"It's a place where I can go to just lay it all out, and nobody is going

to judge me for what is going on," said Amy.

"We don't go to the meetings to gripe about the alcoholic in our lives," she said. "We go to talk about what's going on with ourselves."

Amy gives the meeting much credit for her current standing in life.

"I've gained an identity that I didn't have in my marriage," she said. "I gained self-esteem and I've gained self-confidence. I've started to like me."

Amy plans on attending self-help group meetings for some time.

"It has become a part of me," she said. "As long as I want to stay sane, that's as long as I will go."

Just like addicts, she said that codependents are also constantly in the stage of recovery.

"The minute you think you are totally well is when you're really in trouble," she said.

-1971 Tornado

## Storm deals major blow to Joplin:

## 1971 tornado just misses Missouri Southern

Missing Missouri Southern by only a few hundred feet, a "devastating" tornado ripped through Joplin on Wednesday, May 5, 1971.

The twister killed ~~one~~ **one** and injured ~~20~~ **20** others in the process of causing \$20 million in damage in the ~~area~~.

Touching down near 20th Street and Maiden Lane at 6:55 p.m., just two minutes after the city's warning sirens had sounded, the tornado carved out a path of destruction 37 blocks long. The areas of 12th Street and 13th Street and 7th Street and 8th Street, and 4th Street to 7th Street west of Range Line received the most damage.

Businesses on Main Street from 10th Street to 17th Street were severely hit. Nearly every business on 7th Street from Minnesota Avenue to Range Line was damaged.

Clocks at the Eastmoreland Plaza Shopping Center, where the tornado delivered a major blow, stopped at 7 p.m. The front of May's City was wrenched away from the main building. Front and rear portions of R&S Chevrolet were ripped apart by the twister.

A service station and the Missouri State Highway Department building on 4th Street and Range Line were also heavily damaged. More than 100 trees were uprooted in Forrest Park cemetery, and many tombstones were scattered or knocked over.

The tornado then headed straight for Missouri Southern. As night class students watched, the twister for some reason began to follow Turkey Creek just south of the campus. It crossed Duquesne Road near the Turkey Creek bridge.

then hit the George Hempen residence.

From [redacted], the tornado aimed its sledgehammer [redacted] at the Anderson Mobile Park, located two miles east of the College on Newman Road. Rick Johnson, who had taken cover in the north ditch of Newman Road with his wife, Nancy, was killed by a flying concrete block or piece of tin.

Johnson, 25, was pronounced dead at St. John's Hospital, and his wife was treated for an arm injury and dismissed. Three other Southern students residing in the park escaped injury. Only one of the 15 homes remained standing, and it was heavily damaged.

A 1963 graduate of Neosho High School and a veteran of the Vietnam War, Johnson had attended Missouri Southern since 1968. He was employed as a laboratory technician at Upsher Laboratories at Freeman Hospital.

Belongings and debris from the trailer park were strewn over a wide area northeast of the site. Pieces of metal hung from utility lines in the area. Electrical power lines on Newman Road between Joplin and the park fell onto the road, blocking travel. The ambulance which came for Johnson had to make a wide detour.

Leaving its mark on the trailer court, the tornado continued west and still was on the ground as it passed near Avilla, about 11 miles from Joplin.

Some Missouri National Guard troops were called in to prevent looting. William Morris, state lieutenant governor, toured Joplin the following day. Gov. Warren Hearnes then signed a proclamation declaring Joplin a disaster site.



**Wrath of a tornado:** (Above) Workers at the service station on the northwest corner of 4th and Range Line survey the damage the day after. The twister ripped the roof off the station and dropped it in a field ~~across~~ the street. (Below left) The Missouri Highway Department Headquarters received heavy damage. A large part of the north wall was blown out into the yard. (Photos courtesy Boone Publications)

## Were sirens sounded soon enough?

In the aftermath of the 1971 tornado, several Joplin residents expressed ~~concern~~ that the city's warning sirens ~~were~~ not sounded sooner to warn of the impending disaster.

Although the damage total soared into the millions, the death and injury toll was remarkably low for a storm of the intensity which struck May 5, 1971.

Joplin police received information at 6:15 that night that a tornado had been sighted near Columbus, Kan. But it was not until Captain Charles Hickman of the Joplin Police Department saw debris hurling through the air while on patrol downtown that the order to "sound the sirens" was given.

That was at 6.53 p.m., just two minutes before the tornado actually touched down near **THE** Street

Malden Lane

The city received criticism for the late-sounding warning sirens. Allen Pearson, director of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, said sirens should be sounded long before a tornado hits a city.

"A couple of minutes warning is not enough," Pearson said. "Joplin was very lucky."

Pearson said sirens should have been sounded when a tornado warning was issued at 6:15 p.m., just after the funnel was sighted near Columbus, Kan.

Joplin officials, however, said that sounding sirens too early was like "crying wolf." If city residents were told to take cover every time a funnel was sighted in the four-state area, they would be spending a good deal of their time in

basements or shelters. These warnings could become commonplace, and residents might ignore warning signs when a tornado actually was ready to strike Jonkin.

Actually, Joplin police and disaster workers had been sent out to spot the approaching tornado. But as is the case in numerous such storms, those closest to the funnel are sometimes handicapped by blowing dust, rain, or heavy hail. The tornado nearing Joplin was hidden by a cloud, preventing an earlier sighting.

According to weather investigators, there was more than one funnel cloud in the storm. Scattered damage in areas around the storm appear to hint of several smaller funnel clouds on the ground at the same time.



## Eye witnesses to funnel cloud:

# Couple among first to arrive at disaster scene

by Martin C. Oetting

Memories of the 1971 tornado are still vivid in the minds of those who lived near the tragedy.

Ruby Smith, owner of the Harrison Mobile Park at the time of the tornado, still remembers that night in May when storms wreaked havoc near Missouri Southern. The trailer park, located just two miles east of the College on Newman Road, was the site where a Missouri Southern student, Rick Johnson, was killed. The trailer park was completely demolished by the twister.

"We were playing cards in the living room, and I heard a rumble and looked out the west windows," Ruby remembers. "At first, we thought it was hail since we had had a terrible hail storm just a week before. Then, I saw the tornado approaching from the west."

When the storm was first sighted, Ruby said it appeared "to be upside down. Usually, tornadoes are big at the top and small where they are on the ground. This one was the opposite, and was real large at the bottom and small at the top."

"We saw stuff flying through the air and the first thing I thought was I hoped it wasn't going to hit the trailer court," Ruby continues.

"I tried to drive over to the street, but there were power lines down all over the road and no one could get through."

Ruby then drove back to her house, located just south of the trailer park, and ran across a field to get to the disaster site. Once there, she found only one trailer "still standing," though it was leaning to one side.

Leu Smith, now married to Ruby, was the first person to arrive at the court after the tornado. "There wasn't anything left to see," he said.

"There was debris all over the place," Leu said. "We found the Johnson boy in the ditch, and we knew he was dead. A concrete block took part of the top of his head off."

According to Ruby, Johnson was building a fence around his trailer lot, and "might have been all right" if he had not run across the street to the ditch. Ruby said when Johnson saw the storm approaching, he told his wife to head for the ditch. Moments later, he jumped on top of her just as the funnel cloud dipped into the trailer park. Either a concrete block or piece of tin killed him the final blow.

"There were looters all over the place when I got up there," Ruby said. "One fellow had a silver dollar



collector, and the coins were scattered all over the place. People were all over the place taking things."

Several residents of the trailer court were injured in the storm. Leu said a young woman "about eight months pregnant" had been struck

in the back by a two-by-four. When he found her, she was in shock.

"We wrapped her up in blankets," he said. Another man was injured when a wood stove was blown over on him, crushing his arm and shoulder.

Ruby built the trailer court in 1966. At the time of the tornado, she had just sold it but still held the deed. She later took over the operation again. Since that time, it has changed hands several times. The trailer park is now named Newman Road Park.

Ruby said mail addressed to the trailer park and a lawn chair were found as far away as Miller, Mo. Weather officials investigating the storm soon after discovered that

there had actually been more than one funnel cloud on the ground at the time.

Members of The Chart investigated a heavily wooded area southwest of the trailer park and found several pieces of debris and fallen trees apparently put there by one of the funnel clouds.

"It was really weird," Ruby said. "There were sheets of barn tin wrapped around light poles like bows and knots." Several twisted pieces of tin still remain near the area.

After the storm, the debris from the trailers was buried in a mine shaft near where the duplexes have been built on the north side of Newman Road.



**Then and now:** (Above): Damage to the trailer park, located just east of the College, was evident the morning after the storm. (Left): Today, the mobile home park has been rebuilt and is under new ownership. (Top photo courtesy Boone Publications, left photo by Martin Oetting)

## Hempen residence just across Duquesne Road hit hard:

# Family is 'grateful' twister didn't strike College

by Martin Oetting

After the devastating twister tore its path through Joplin, residents emerged from shelter to survey damage left by the storm. Many of the ones were spared by the storm. Others, however, found severe damage to residences.

Among the unlucky were Mr. and Mrs. George Hempen, who reside at 217 N. Duquesne, just east of the College. Their home and outbuildings sustained heavy damage from the storm.

Fifteen years later, they still recall that tragic night in 1971.

"Our boys were young then, about 10 or 11," Mrs. Hempen recalls. "I had put the car away in the basement garage because of the warnings. Then, the girls called me to play cards."

At that time, she went back to the garage, opened the door, and began to back out the car.

"When I was backing out, I saw things that looked like birds flying around," she said. "I wasn't sure what it was, but then I realized what it was."

She quickly pulled the car back into the garage and closed the door, calling upstairs to her two

sons. "I told them if they wanted to see a tornado to look out the front windows," she said. "I then told them to come downstairs. One of them was in the shower, and he got out, grabbed the dog, and came downstairs."

As the storm passed over the house, she said the basement garage door "heaved." Once it had passed, they went upstairs to survey the damage.

"The kitchen was all right, but as we walked further through the house we found more damage," she said. "We lost a lot of trees.

There were large ones blocking the driveway. We lost about \$190,000 worth of trees, mostly walnuts."

The tornado hit the front room on the west end of the house, where it damaged a piano, but left the trophy case next to it unharmed.

"It took the southwest windows out, frames and all, and blew the drapes up on the roof," she said. "We had a little workshop behind the house that was completely destroyed. The only thing left was the concrete foundation. A large tree was also blown across the barn roof."

She said during repairs to the house, construction workers surmised that the twister "was at most top level" when it passed over the house, since the southwest corner of the roof "apparently had been lifted up about six inches or so" and then dropped again.

"It was too bad we got hit," she said, "but I was glad it missed the College. There were so many students out there, and from what I hear some of them couldn't get into the basement since the door was locked. I'm just thankful it hit us instead of them."

Night classes were in session:

# Faculty remember twister's brush with campus

By Martin Oetting

Perhaps students and faculty attending night classes on May 5, 1971, were most horrified by the approaching tornado. At the time, there were night classes in session in nearly all buildings on campus.

Three faculty members who still teach at the College were eye witnesses to the storm as it approached the campus.

"I remember it, and I remember it well," said Dr. Conrad Gubera, associate professor of sociology. "I was teaching a class on the third floor of Hearnes Hall when it came through."

Gubera said a student looked out the west windows and saw "what he said looked like birds flying around" outside. As soon as everyone realized what it was, they immediately headed for the basement.

"As we filed out of the room and went down the stairs," Gubera said, "I stopped and looked out the hall window to get a quick glimpse of what it was. At the time, it was about on Range Line Road, and headed straight for us. I watched as it went right through the valley where the soccer fields are now. It was headed right for Reynolds Hall, but then veered to the east and just missed the gym."

Gubera said he still remembers the fury and violence of the funnel as it passed in front of him.

"The turbulence and noise was incredible," he said. "There was just a mass of dirt, trash, boards, and parts of trees whipping around at great speeds. It was so large it filled the entire valley down there. Here [at Hearnes Hall], we were getting the residuals of the funnel like bits of trash and debris. There

were tree branches all over the place after it left. It's something you never forget."

Dr. Bob Steere, professor of education, was teaching a class in Reynolds Hall that eventful night.

"I had a student who was giving a presentation before the class," Steere said. "He went back to the back window to close the blind, and saw the storm. He asked me what it was, and I said 'I don't know, but we had better get out of here.'"

As the students filed down the rear stairs to the bottom floor, Steere said he stopped to look out the second floor windows. By then, the funnel was only "three blocks away" from the building.

"Several of us stopped to watch it," he said. "I know we really shouldn't have been there looking out when it was that close. I saw the cloud. It was coming right toward us, and was huge and very vertical. There was a big box about the size of a long skinny room flying around in the funnel. I never got a good look at it to identify what it was, but it looked like a room."

Steere said he watched as it went across the parking lot in back of the gymnasium.

During the storm, Steere said the students were somewhat sedated.

"Most of us were frightened, but were seeking safety," he said. "It was kind of solemn and fairly quiet. After it passed, we didn't know how much damage it actually did."

Wayne Stebbins, who was teaching a biology class that night in Reynolds Hall, said he saw the tornado "coming along Turkey Creek when it took a sharp turn and headed straight toward the tennis courts."

Stebbins said students and faculty "momentarily" went to the base-



ment of Reynolds Hall.

"We all thought it would hit Reynolds Hall," he said. "When nothing happened, we came out of the basement and actually watched the tornado hit the southeast corner of the gymnasium."

Students in the building were "more apprehensive than scared," Stebbins said. "They were really just curious," he said.

Students in the business administration building heard a sound like a "large bell or a train" and saw debris swirling in the air outside as the tornado approached the campus. They tried to get in the basement of the building, but it was locked. Someone finally located a key, but by then the funnel had left.

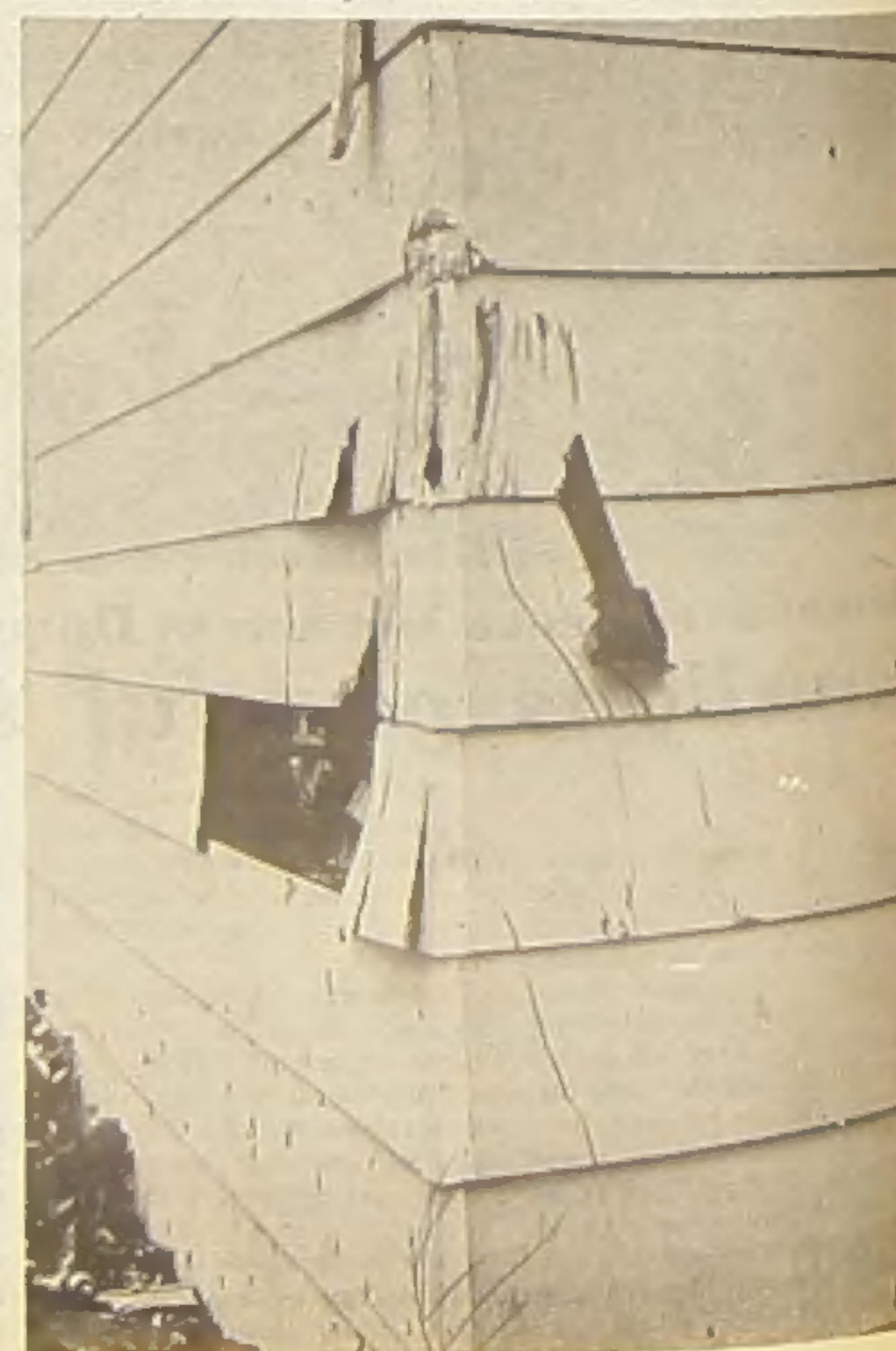
The tornado spared the College,

but it did severely damage some trees southeast of the gymnasium and leave many broken car windows.

Following the tornado, many male dormitory students from Southern went to the devastated

Anderson Mobile Park to aid the victims. A woman and her baby from the trailer court spent the night in South Hall, and women residents living there took turns rocking the infant.

**Aftermath:** (Above): Northpark Mall foundation was mangled by the storm. (Below): Fury of storm is evidenced by board stabbed into house. (Bottom): Tree damage east of campus can still be seen today. (Photos courtesy the Joplin Globe)



## 1973 Storm

# Storms wreak havoc again: It was not a tornado, but damage was worse

Shortly before 7 a.m. on Friday, May 11, 1973, the worst storm ever to strike Joplin vent its wrath on an unsuspecting city.

Massive gale force winds blowing between 70 and 100 miles per hour killed three persons and injured nearly 100. The storm, of hurricane force, covered the ground with two inches of hail before subsiding.

Though damage reported after the storm resembled what is often seen from tornadoes, no funnel clouds were reported in the storm.

No section of the city escaped at least partial damage. The storm was said to be worse than the 1971 tornado because damage was so widespread. City losses totaled around \$13 million.

A resident of the West Side Trailer Court on West 7th Street, about three miles west of Joplin, was killed during the storm.

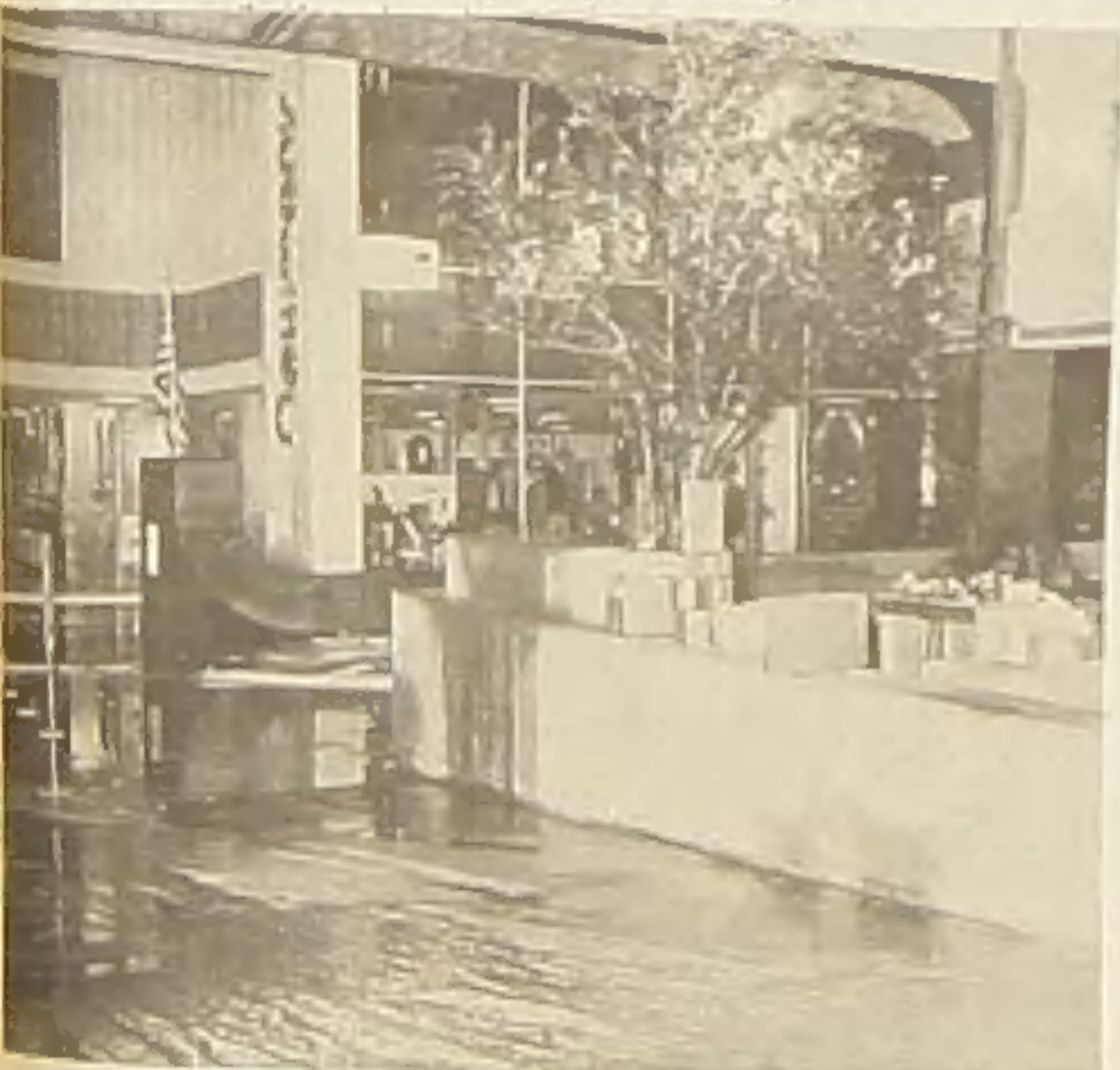
Another resident, a 64-year-old man, suffered an apparent heart attack and died soon after.

One of the hardest hit businesses in the city was Miller Manufacturing Company, located in southeast Joplin at 27th Street and Davis Boulevard. Some 200 employees had reported for work when the storm struck. One employee, who was in the cafeteria, was fatally injured.

Evidence of the storm's might was perhaps most visible at Parkwood High School. The west wall of the gymnasium was demolished, and bricks were even thrown the length of the basketball floor, damaging the structure's east wall.

Northpark Mall, which did not exist at the time of the 1971 tornado, also had extensive damage.

**Mall damage:** (Below): The storm and torrential rains blew out windows at the Northpark Mall, and flooded the inner corridors. (Photos courtesy the Joplin Globe)



**Death sites:** Three persons in the Joplin area were killed from the cyclonic storm. (Top and center): The wreckage at West Side Trailer Court on west Seventh Street, where two were killed. (Above): Miller Manufacturing Co. on Davis boulevard was heavily damaged. One woman was killed in the cafeteria. (Photos courtesy the Joplin Globe)

# College students adopt several identities

## Students diverse in style and dress

By Tim Drew

College students can adopt a number of different identities. Where do you belong?

Missouri Southern, despite being somewhat dwarfed by the enrollments at some larger universities, creates a broad spectrum of students greatly diverse in appearance, study habits, and free time activities.

When considering appearance, the type of dress is often thought to be by far the most important. Dress tends to create a good or bad first impression.

The group, often standing out in a crowd, are those considered to be the "class" people. This would include the sharp-dressed man or woman category.

The shoes are of utmost importance. The type of shoe varies, but the only real important thing is that they are the "in" look. Dress slacks, nice shirt, and tie must also possess the same "in" qualities. Topping it off, there may be a dab of Vitalis or bit of styling mousse to hold the hair in a fine business-like fashion.

The woman on this level tend to vary a great deal. The days of the woman having to wear a dress have

long passed.

Dress slacks or a nice skirt are moving in quickly. Once again, the "in" pair of shoes is important, along with a pair of unscathed nylons. A run or hole in a pair of nylons would be considered tacky and absolutely unacceptable. The blouse or sweater usually serves as a complement to the rest.

However, of foremost importance is from the neck up. Make-up must be absolutely flawless. The earrings are attractive, but a great deal of time is taken to avoid anything gawdy. Lastly is the hair. With a barrage of new hair styles, it's unfair to say that every hair falls into place because that would often conquer objectives. However, the hair must be perfect before this student ventures into public.

This stage of preparation often takes upwards of an hour's time to perfect. Hence, don't be surprised to find this student in dampened spirits on a rainy or windy day.

Dipping into the casual look, things become much less complex. It covers the widest range of individuals, and there is little variation between the sexes.

Ranging from a respectable pair of jeans to the latest OP fashions,



the casual crowd seems to dominate the campus.

A vast array of various types of tennis shoes and sneakers are usually common with the middle to lower end of casual dress. The upper division includes numerous examples which are considered a casual shoe. The ever-popular boat shoe is one such example.

Various types of button-up shirts, polos, and hooded shirts are usually most prominent. A nice T-shirt is also a possibility.

The hair and other general appearance is still important, but not in such a business-like fashion. The most important aspect is that the individual is comfortable and avoids being repulsive.

Moving along, we find comfortable being pushed to the outer

limits. This is usually the "care free" individual who either feels that he or she has no one to impress, or simply wasn't in the mood for any type of a hassle.

A pair of "lived in" blue jeans or sweats and any old T-shirt around will do. The shoes are no pressing issue. Basically anything handy will do.

Any hole appearing in the clothing or shoes simply adds character and individuality to an outfit.

For the guys, a hat is often a necessity. Putting a hat on is often much easier and quicker than finding a comb or brush.

Hats, however, aren't quite as popular with the women. Instead, the hair is pulled back into what's popularly known as a pony tail.

This group tends to just take everything in stride. Everything stays in proper perspective. Dress—nowhere near the top.

Nearly everyone has the urge or necessity, at least once, to cut loose and delve into the "care free" world.

When considering any of the before mentioned, it's important to remember that various items, appearances, and individuals are greatly interchangeable.

Seldom will there be an individual who stays glued into a given mode or follows a given pattern or follow all patterns characteristic of a category.

Continued on next page

## Students

## Study habits

the respect parting a particular type study habit with a category a impossible.

Believe it or not, some students prepare days in advance for a work before a test. Does this work? Most students think that it does. Such rigorous behavior is not always

Even if preparing beforehand is a popular habit, it often goes into play. This is what's as procrustean. It's not those incredibly useful ideas or philosophies and a popular college students.

philosophy tends to create is probably the most popular study habit the hectic session.

The upper division attempts to chapters pages notes into his her head the night before a test.

Just below sometimes within a group those who the breakfast table by orange juice and Cap'n Crunch.

often learn a little material, but have made themselves a frazzled wreck and don't seem to put it all together.

Many students find that a little of sorts always helps when studying. These don't need to make sense and often contradict each other, but they feel it gives them an edge.

Some find that a radio or television is a necessity. Also something to nibble on or drink is nice. They claim that or something to present forces them to concentrate hard on the necessary.

For others, anything besides a calm and quiet setting is a distraction. These are often the students who end up at the top of their lungs in hopes for the preferred quiet. Does that sound rational?

## Spare time

Before moving on, it's important to analyze those who decide it's not important or they simply don't care. This feeling is often to what is done in spare time or after hours.

This student belongs to what could be considered "party animals." This student develops a "forget it" attitude.

Without delving into great detail, these nights and too much of a good time begin to wear a body down and cut mental capacity and attention a great deal.

Others choose to be somewhat more calm and play various card games or become intensely involved in a game of Risk. Watching television or listening to the radio is popular for just passing time and hours.

When considering passing hours between classes, somewhat of a segregation at Southern seems to exist. Oh, there are always exceptions, but there is a basic trend

The Lions' Den BSC offers a whole new world to most students living in the dormitories. It seems to serve as a commuter hangout. For the dormitory student, it creates a whole new world with challenging adventures and interesting adventures.

Playing pool, video games, or going to the movies are fun activities to spend time occupied in the Lions' Den. In addition, it's a place to grab a bite to eat and something to drink while waiting for the man or woman of your dreams.

Conversely, the lounge upstairs consists of primitive dormitory students. It's possible to find anything from sleeping students to those involved in heated arguments. Once again, there are those who are just "sleeping out" for that certain someone.

When considering the broad variety of students at Southern, it becomes obvious that the surface has simply been scratched. By no means have Southern students and their habits been discussed.

Having simply touched upon the let the imagination take over, draw between the lines and chances that you see yourself or those around you.



# Joplin offers the finest in small museums

By Mark Ernstmann

Residents of Joplin may not realize it, but some of the finest small museums in the country are located right on their doorstep.

Included in these museums are the Dorothea B. Hoover Historical Museum, the Tri-State Mineral Museum, and the Spiva Art Center.

Founded in 1973, the Dorothea B. Hoover Historical Museum is named in memory of a direct descendant of a pioneer family that settled in the Joplin area. The efforts put forth by Hoover resulted in the establishment of the museum. Dedicated in 1976, the museum is part of a complex that also houses the Tri-State Mineral Museum. The building is located at Schifferdecker Park, and was funded by a combination of finances from the city of Joplin, the Joplin Historical Society, and the Historical Museum Guild.

The museum was Hoover's dream, but unfortunately she didn't live to see it. Marv Louise Waggoner, executive secretary of the Community Activities Center, took over her life and she kept many family items and put them in her old house.

With this in mind, the Historical Society rented a building in downtown Joplin and used it as the museum, but the city asked it to move to Schifferdecker Park and join with the Mineral Museum. That



**Antiques:** (Above) A miniature model of the Barnum and Bailey Circus on display at the Hoover Museum. (Left) An antique secretary and typewriter decorate just one of the many rooms that display furniture and objects from the Victorian Era. (Photos by JoAnn Hollis)



in 1976

the move. The Historical Society set up a guild to run the museum," said Waggoner. "Four years later the guild dissolved and now the museum is run by the Historical Society. It is not under the city at all."

The city does pay the utilities and furnish the building, though," she said.

Since the development and growth of Joplin took place mainly during the Victorian period (1840-1910), the emphasis of the museum is on this era. The many different rooms depict life of an upper-middle class family of the late 1800's.

We have Victorian rooms that have come from Joplin homes and they are very interesting," Waggoner said.

The rooms include a typical 19th century kitchen, a Victorian dining room, a "man of affairs" office, a parlor featuring a rosewood Chickering piano that belonged to John C. Cox, the Father of Joplin, an adult's bedroom, and a miniature room equipped with "everything a little girl could desire."

Also included in the museum are two elegantly decorated rooms that reflect America's bicentennial history.

"The two 1776 rooms are uni-

que," said Waggoner. "There are not many like them around. All of the furnishings are authentic."

One of the rooms is a basic colonial room complete with a Chipendale looking glass and cherrywood secretary.

The other is a replica of the colonial tavern, "The Sea Griffin." It is decorated with 200-year old furniture, pewter accessories, and lighting implements straight from the period.

In addition to the Victorian rooms, the museum has many other notable collectibles.

"We have an outstanding collection," Waggoner said. "They are the collection of Maud Taylor Johnson, and she felt it was very important that we keep them all together where people could see them."

"They are beautifully dressed," said Waggoner.

The dolls, dating back to 1890, are dressed in homemade clothes and real jewelry.

An arrowhead collection with hundreds of Indian artifacts is also on display at the museum. The artifacts were recovered from the Johnson estate.

The museum also features a Victorian dollhouse that was specifically built for display at the museum.

"One outstanding attraction is

the mini-circus that is a replica of the Barnum and Bailey Circus," Waggoner said. "It is very well done, and has a tape which provides a musical background and also a storyteller."

There are many other attractions at the museum, including antique instruments, clothing from the era, toys, and photographs and documents that tell the history of Joplin.

"We have about 10,000 people go through the museum a year," Waggoner said. "When we have special attractions, we have as many as 300 a day. The number is increasing every year."

"Admission is free but we do accept donations," she said. "People are very generous, especially the tourists, and we do get a lot of them. We get them from practically every state, and we even have foreign visitors."

The museum is open from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Tours may be arranged by calling (417) 623-1180.

"We get very favorable comments," said Waggoner. "It's just a nice place to walk into. It's alive."

"It's one of the most outstanding small museums, and we want people to know about it."

# Museums tell of local history, provide culturing

## Spiva Art Center

By Mark Ernstmann

Helping residents of Joplin to know and increase their appreciation of the visual arts by maintaining an educational, social and cultural center is the purpose of the Spiva Art Center.

"So far, the center is working out well," said Val Christensen, director of the Spiva Art Center. "We try to bring a variety of visual arts to Joplin and Missouri Southern. They can range from national to local artists."

The center began in 1958 with a group of artists who founded the Ozark Artists Guild. From the 1958 to 1967, the guild operated in a remodeled Victorian home named the Spiva Art Center. It was named in honor of George A. Spiva, whose interest in local art plus the many generous gifts he donated helped make it possible. In 1967, two years after moving to its present location, the guild of locally changed its name to the Spiva Art Center, Inc.

Aided by the Spiva Art Center staff, the board of directors and various committees, the programming of the art center is financially dependent on membership, individual businesses, corporations, and grants. A private organization, St. Avips, also provides funds for the center.

"We have been pretty well supported," said Christensen. "Other institutions are impressed with the support we give and with our programming."

As for programming, the center presents a wide variety of visual arts from the community as well as national scale. Every three to four weeks, a new exhibition either comes in or goes.

"One exhibition that gained the greatest attention was the Thomas Hart Benton Retrospect in 1973," Christensen said. "It received a claim locally and nationwide. Another one is planned for this spring, a matter of fact."

Christensen pointed out that there are several programs on tap for the upcoming years at the center.

He said that in the fall of 1987 there will be a show for the alumni of the art department and in the spring of 1988 an exhibition and related activities are planned for the anniversary of the Ozark Artists Guild.

"We've had a wide variety of people at the center," said Christensen. "It's not just Missouri Southern students and community people. It's surprising to see the various cities that are represented internationally. That is very pleasing to us."

## Tri-State Mineral Museum

By Mark Ernstmann

Providing a permanent home for the many large specimens found in the district is the function of the Tri-State Mineral Museum. The museum also ensures the preservation of the minerals.

The idea for the museum originated in 1929 with Joe H. Myers, who was a member of the city park board.

In 1931 Myers obtained a large structure in Schifferdecker Park that would house the museum. Displayed in the museum were the mineral resources of the district, the finished products of the lead, zinc and other minerals of the district, and the development of the mining industry.

Through the use of models, the museum contains replicas of the methods used in the lead and zinc mining. The stages represented range from the primitive methods to the advanced methods of today.

As the idea continued, the park board appointed Myers, J.H. Wadleigh, mining editor of the Joplin Globe, and F.W. "Cap" Nesbit of the City to solicit funds to order or buy the display and also to build the miniature replicas.

The cases and models were built and designed by Myers and Sam Madden, a park district carpenter.

The initial collection was donated to the museum by Harry G. Packer, and many others followed his lead and donated their private collections.

In addition, individual miners and large mining companies brought in their prize finds.

Now 40 years later, a unique collection of rare and irreplaceable specimens from the lead and zinc mines from this area are on display.

The area's many mineral deposits were probably formed from solution at low temperatures. Large caves or openings in the rock were formed by solution and in these caves miners found perfectly formed crystals that completely covered the walls of the caves.

Among some of the minerals found on display at the museum are Galena, anglesite, barite, nile, calcite, and quartz.

There is no admission charge at the museum and special visits can be arranged by calling (417) 624-0820.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The museum is closed on Mondays.



Exhibits: (Above) Spiva Art Center displays a variety of visual arts. (Left) Tri-State Mineral Museum offers displays of early mining techniques. (Below) Different specimens of minerals are also on display at the mineral museum.





**Well known:** Wilder's Bar and Grill first began business in Joplin in 1929. The restaurant is known nationwide for its food and atmosphere. (Photo by Rick Evans)

## Wilder's dates back to 1929:

# Owners keep 'old' style decor

By Rock Hughes

"I want to serve the best food in the world at a reasonable price," said Clarence Burggraf, owner of Wilder's Bar & Grill and Olde Tyme Steak & Burger Company.

Burggraf has been serving up breakfast, lunch, and dinner to folks from all parts of the nation since 1979 when he fulfilled his dream of having his own restaurant.

"Wilder's was going to be auctioned off, but I bought it to keep it going," he said. "It was something I always wanted to do."

Wilder's is known for its mesquite broiled steaks and vegetables. Burggraf said he had grown used to the use of mesquite wood cooking during his travel throughout the west. In 1984 he installed the mesquite broiler.

"It puts a taste on the meat that can't be copied," he said. "Our mesquite broiled vegetables are absolutely unusual because you have to have the broiler to do it."

The establishment prides itself on quality.

"We try to serve the best quality beef and freshest vegetables at all times," Burggraf said. "All of our

pies, cakes and cobblers are homemade."

Wilder's was founded in 1929 by Vern Wilder. The original restaurant extended five buildings to the north of the present store, and had seating for 750 people. One of its attractions was the Las Vegas style gambling in the room above the restaurant and bar.

"It was as well known for gambling as it was for the restaurant," said Burggraf. "It was a full-blown gambling hall."

In 1981 the restaurant reduced its present size. It currently has seating for 100 people.

"It has virtually stayed the same," said Burggraf.

The interior is nostalgic, consisting of antique gas pump, antique advertisement signs, wooden booths from the original restaurant, and the original 45-foot-long mahogany bar which was built in the late 1930's.

"It's an old place, and we want to keep it that way," said Burggraf.

In an attempt to incorporate the new with the old, there is a television set mounted on the wall, used mainly for sporting events. Burggraf will soon be installing a news wire.

"It will be on the back wall so it will be visible throughout the store," he said.

Burggraf said he kept the Wilder's name because it was famous nationwide.

You can ask just about anyone, anywhere, and they'll tell you that Wilder's is in Joplin, Mo., he said.

From the early 1940's to the late 1960's the restaurant was open 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Burggraf started opening the store on Sundays in 1984.

"We're busy seven days a week, but Friday and Saturday are the busiest nights," he said, "and we're usually packed for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday."

Wilder's offers a wide variety menu that includes breakfast served anytime.

"You can have anything from a hamburger to a top-choice tenderloin steak," said Burggraf.

Wilder's employs eight cooks, each boasting a number of years of experience.

"We have an expensive taste that is moderately priced," said Burggraf.

## Drivers get good food:

# Truck stop is home

By Rob Smith

Although many of the customers at Trucker's Inn are just passing through, they play an important part in the success of the restaurant.

The bulk of the customers are truckers, said Doug Tope, owner of Trucker's Inn. We do have a lot of locals, but most of our customers are off the interstate.

Trucker's Inn, which serves travelers as well as local residents, is located at the intersection of I-44 and Highway 43 between Joplin and Seneca. It was established in 1964, a few months after the interstate was built.

"The reason this was built was because of the toll road coming out of Oklahoma," said Tope.

"The truck stops were here before there was anything on Range Line," said one waitress at the restaurant. "It was put here because trucks have to stop where they get in and out. They can't fight traffic."

Trucker's Inn was opened by the Skelly Oil Company. The company proceeded to build truck stops "all over the midwest."

If you study history, we are just like the Pony Express," said Tope.

The trucks stop from one point to the next, one truck stop to the next."

The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The menu includes steaks, chicken, seafood, sandwiches, and Mexican foods. Leona Davenport, restaurant manager, estimates that these foods are served to between 400 and 600 people a day.

"I think we have good quality food at reasonable prices," said Davenport. "We are a friendly restaurant. It's like home to certain truckers."

"I make it a point to go around and see the customers. I also see

wherever I'm needed. That could mean helping in the kitchen, waiting tables, or washing dishes."

Although a large portion of the business is the restaurant, Trucker's Inn does more than serve food.

"We fix trucks, fuel, ice, clothing, not to mention the restaurant," said Tope. "We even used to have bunk rooms, but when the restaurant got so big we had to take them out."

Trucker's Inn is the busiest from late April until after Thanksgiving. However, Tope points out that Missouri gets many of the truckers during the winter.

"The gardens die during the winter. The trucks have to bring us fruits and vegetables from Texas and Florida," said Tope.

Several famous people have "passed through" Trucker's Inn, including comedian George Gobel, actor Jack Palance, and baseball star Mickey Mantle.

"We get rock band buses through here," said Tope. "We also get a lot of famous people from the Loma Linda golf tournament."

Both Tope and Davenport expressed positive thoughts about truckers and trucking.

"I think trucking is here to stay," said Tope. "As you move further away from cities, you depend on trucks and more trucks."

"They're just average people out trying to make a living," said Davenport. "They are gone and away from their families for three months at a time. They have a harder time making a living than they used to."

Tope, who is originally from Denver, has a wife, Carol, and two daughters, April and Holly. His wife works at the truck stop handling phone calls and correspondence.

"I was 30 years old before I saw an oak tree," said Tope. "I think Missouri is a great place to be."



**Refueling:** Travelers as well as local residents patronize Trucker's Inn for food and fuel. (Photo by Rick Evans)

## Restaurants

## Betty Patrick's emphasizes good taste: Gourmet food is 'in thing'

By Melanie Hicks

Expect to dine graciously here. Each dish is prepared after your order is received by our kitchen staff, headed by Betty Patrick, former food editor and cooking school teacher, who has attended cooking schools in Italy, France, and the U.S.

This logo appears on the front of the menu at Betty Patrick's Gourmet Restaurant.

"I always wanted to have a restaurant," said Patrick.

Patrick's cooking career began with entertaining people in her home.

"I did lots of entertaining and have cooked for many people at church dinners," she said.

She put her cooking talents to work when she taught a cooking school for two years at Newman's Department Store in Joplin. At the same time she began another business, the Joplin.

Patrick worked for the newspaper 17 years. She was editor of the "people" section for 15 years and "food" editor for two years. While working at the Globe she attended four cooking schools in Europe.

Patrick's dream finally came true in January 1984 when she and her husband David opened their gourmet restaurant at 510 Joplin

Street in Joplin.

David Patrick was the rector at the St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Joplin for 30 years before retiring to help with the business.

"He enjoyed the change," Patrick said, "but he is still actively involved with church work."

The restaurant opened with the Deli Room, which seated 32 people. In October of the first year, they opened the Walnut Room to accommodate their growing business.

"We would like to open a private dining room," Patrick said. "We had a 100 per cent growth the second year, and this year it is running even higher."

The restaurant emphasizes freshness, quality, and good taste, specializing in French and Italian foods. Part of its success may be due to the exposed kitchen where customers are able to watch the chef at work.

Gourmet foods are the "in" thing," said Patrick. "California and new cuisine emphasize how food looks rather than how it tastes."

Cooking duties are shared by Patrick and Sander, a veteran chef of 20 years.

Food served at the restaurant is cooked with recipes developed from Patrick's years of experience.

David Patrick is a widely-traveled wine connoisseur and Charlotte Osborn beverage manager has been preparing drinks for 30 years.

"People come from as far away as Kansas City, Tulsa, and Springfield to eat at the restaurant," said Patrick.

One of the favorite specialty items is the house dressing which the Patricks hope to market in the near future.

Patrick believes the success is due to long hours of hard work.

"In the beginning the hours were long," she said. "We were all amateurs, but we made mistakes just like anyone else. We can weather the storm, this is a good business to be in."

Patrick calls it a "pressure cooker business." She believes the hardest thing in dealing with employees is to keep a balance—to get the best out of people and get them to do their best. She says success is due to hard work and being committed to whatever she does.

"Love whatever you do and be enthusiastic about it," Patrick said. "I've had two careers I really loved—the newspaper career and this."

She started her newspaper career at age 43, and was when she opened the restaurant.

"I intend to work as long as possible—as long as my health allows me," she said.

Taste treat: Betty Patrick's gourmet restaurant is a 'dream come true.' She is a graduate of four cooking schools and a former food editor for the Joplin Globe. She and her husband, David, hope to expand the restaurant in the future. (Photo by Rick Evans)

### Provides family atmosphere:

## Restaurant varies menu, music

By Rachael Macy

In June 1980, Christian restaurant was established on West Seventh Street. The Gazebo on old-fashioned smorgasbord had arrived in Joplin.

The Gazebo building, constructed in the 1960's to serve as a night club called the Black Orchard. There have been several businesses established there since then, including Chicken Annie's and Pop's Fizzball.

At the Gazebo, customers can eat what they want of a three-line smorgasbord. On Friday and Saturday nights there is a fourth line of seafood. The soup and salad bar is also filled with more than 50 items. There is a hot food bar filled with soups and dressing, barbecued and fried catfish and Mexican food. The third line is a smorgasbord of homemade cakes. The seafood line consists of crab, boiled shrimp, oysters, clam, deep-fried shrimp, frog legs, stuffed and fried catfish and smoked chicken. It is available on Friday and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Our restaurant policy is a combination of good food and friendly service in a nice Christian atmosphere," said Don Divine, co-owner of the business.

The Gazebo doesn't serve

alcoholic beverages because we want to have a Christian atmosphere," said Paul Divine, manager of the Gazebo.

Live gospel music by local and area singers on Friday and Saturday nights is an added feature for customers. Live country music is heard on some Thursday nights. On other days, gospel music is heard in the background.

The Gazebo is open for lunch from Tuesday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at \$4.35 per person. Tuesday through Thursday evening meals are served from 4:30 to 8:30. Friday and Saturday evening hours are from 4:30 to 9:30. Sunday hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday night is the busiest for the restaurant, which averages around 600 people then. For Sundays and dinner, the cost is 7.95 per person. On Friday and Saturday nights a person may include the seafood line for an additional

\$5. For children ages four through 12 the cost is 50 cents times their age. Ages three and under will receive their meal free.

People celebrate their birthdays with a free meal at the Gazebo after 4:30 p.m. Married couples may also celebrate their anniversary. The waiter or waitress will go to the stage singing a ballad, and

announce the birthday or anniversary.

Free meals are given away by KOBC radio to the person correctly answering the Bible question of the day. On KKOW radio station the recipe winner gets two free meals.

Divine and his wife, Carolyn, are owners of the Gazebo along with Gary and Kathy Shaw. Gary Shaw, the assistant pastor at Central Assembly Church in Joplin, Kathy Shaw is in charge of running the entertainment at the restaurant. All four work together to make the Gazebo a success.

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The Gazebo doesn't serve



Busy restaurant: Gazebo's family atmosphere and variety of food attracts many customers. (Photo by Rick Evans).

# 11-year-old learns life-saving device; prevents tragedy

By Gina Williams

Four months ago Eric Barnard choked while eating jelly beans. If he hadn't been to his brother's home, Christie he might not be here today.

Christie was watching her brother with friends in the family room when he became lodged in his throat. His mother, Margaret, was reading in a nearby chair when she noticed that Eric was choking.

When he came over to me, I hit him on the back a few times, she says. I didn't do anything. I didn't know what he had swallowed.

"I turned him upside down, but that didn't work. By that time, he was already turning blue, and his eyes were rolling back in his head. I was just about to panic."

That's when 11-year-old Christie sprang into action.

"First, I got behind him and found his ribs," she says. "I got to his middle and went four fingers down and pulled in and up."

It was her first actual use of the Heimlich maneuver, and it worked.

I didn't know how to do it, says Mrs. Barnard, "but Christie did. He coughed and then started breathing again. We didn't see the jellybean at first, but the dogs found it a few feet away on the carpet."

## Latchkey Program affects children's, teachers' attitudes

By Gina Williams

The Latchkey Program has made an impact with parents, but the greatest impact may be with the children and teachers.

Says one student, "I and the other kids of the elementary have found your Latchkey program fun and educational. I feel a lot safer now at home alone with your lessons on how to answer the phone when no one else is here. Your demonstration of the Heimlich maneuver might help if someone in the school cafeteria, where I work, begins to choke."

"I wasn't able to be there for your drug and alcohol film, but if it was as good as the rest of your program, I'm sure I would have liked it."

Another student writes, "I think your program is excellent. I'm sure it will make people stop and think twice about drugs, pot, etc. And that will probably save a lot of lives. Also, the stories about things that really happened are really a good idea to have because then kids can

Jane Sheller, coordinator of the Latchkey Program at Oak Hill Hospital, says she has seen the Heimlich maneuver demonstrated by Christie.

That little girl is so smart, she says. She knows all of the things that we teach the children.

Christie is not alone. Christie is a fifth grader at Stapleton Elementary School, learned the Heimlich maneuver from Dot Boggan and Judi Alaniz, who are teachers in the Latchkey Program sponsored by Oak Hill Hospital, The Domestic Violence Commission of Southwest Missouri, Carl Junction School System, Oak Hill Auxiliary Division of Family Services, and the Child Advocacy Council also sponsor the program.

Though Christie is happy that she saved her brother's life, her act of heroism was a problem for her.

I had to write a paper about how I saved my brother from choking, she says. I had to write a paper about how I saved my brother from choking.

Though Christie is happy that she saved her brother's life, her act of heroism was a problem for her.

I had to write a paper about how I saved my brother from choking.

see, or understand better what can happen to them."

Jane Sheller, Latchkey coordinator, says she and her staff receive letters like these from many of the children who have participated in the program.

"The letters are just marvelous," she says. "We get them from children in kindergarten through the sixth grade. They seem to really enjoy the program."

Sheller says she received a letter from Jim Murray, founder of the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.

"His letter was really nice," she says. "I thought the fact that we received a letter from him was a statement. He thought that our program was doing great things for kids, that it was making kids stand up and take notice of what can happen to them."

Others who think the program is a good idea for school children are the teachers.

Continued on next page



**Life-saving technique:** Christie Barnard demonstrates the Heimlich maneuver on her brother, Eric. She used the maneuver to save him from choking when a jellybean became lodged in Eric's throat. (Photo courtesy The Joplin Globe)

## Latchkey Program

# Program teaches children about safety

By Gina Williams

How many children would know what to do if a friend was turning blue from choking on a piece of candy?

- Would they
- A. Slap him on the back
  - B. Run for help
  - C. Stand there helplessly watching
  - D. Use the Heimlich maneuver
- If they chose A, B, or C, that friend would probably have died.

The Latchkey Program, which has been presented by Oak Hill Hospital since October 1983, helps children make the right choice.

The term latchkey, or doorkey, originated around the turn of the century. It is a by-product of the industrial revolution.

More families consisted of parents who worked, causing children to be left in the home without adult supervision. The children carried their home keys and let themselves into and out of their houses before and after school. Thus originated the term "latchkey children."

The program originally limited itself to children who found themselves at home alone. That is no longer true. It has emerged into a safety program for all children and parents.

"We were looking for a preventative program to keep kids from coming into the hospital with injuries," says Jane Sheller, social worker and Latchkey coordinator. "When we started hearing from

parents who said they never left their children home alone, we thought we should include them in the program. We thought those children would need to learn how to react to certain situations."

The program consists of six, 40-minute sessions. The sessions are split into two sections—home safety and personal safety.

"In the home safety session, we teach them not to panic," says Sheller. "We want them to know how to react to situations that may arise."

Home safety is broken down into various topics.

"We talk about fire drills, escapes, alarms, and meeting places," she says. "We also have the children cut out newspaper articles about fires and have them figure out why people died in fires."

"We have the children talk with their parents and design an escape pattern and a place to go outside the home, in case of fire."

The children are taught what information not to give out over the phone, says Sheller.

"We tell the children to never tell someone that they are at home alone. That is a major mistake."

Sheller says they want the children to know how to answer the door to a stranger, and how to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

The last proved to be valuable to Christie Barnard, when she saved her little brother, Eric, from choking on a jellybean.

"I've been notified of eight or 10 instances in which a child has saved someone because of the things we have taught them," says Sheller.

She says it is not only important that the children learn but also the parents.

"We tell the kids to teach their parents what they learned. That way if the children are not home when an emergency situation occurs, the parents will know what to do."

As far as personal safety is concerned, the children are taught about alcohol, drugs, sexual abuse, and suicide.

"We let them know that they do have a choice as far as drugs and alcohol are concerned," says Sheller. "Many of them know that they have

a choice but they don't really understand it."

We also address the missing children problem. Many of the children are afraid that they will become missing themselves. We teach them how to say no if a stranger approaches them.

In dealing with sexual abuse, the children are taught to say no to any type of sexual overtures, to get away, and to tell an adult.

Sheller says that because of the increase in teen suicides, it has become a topic for discussion.

"We talk about depression when we talk about suicide," she says. "The pressures are much stronger than when I was a child, and the problems are different. We let the kids know that they need to talk to adults. Just talking to a friend may not help. We teach the child to communicate with teachers, family, and adults in general."

Though the program is currently presented to children in kindergarten through fifth grade, it could be given to youths in higher grades.

"It can easily be adapted for the middle schools, junior high, and even the high schools," says Sheller. "As I see needs, I adapt the program. Therefore, I am constantly changing it. I'm trying to improve the program over time."

The program has been presented to over 12,000 children through churches, service organizations, and schools. By the end of next year, Latchkey will have been presented to schools in McDonald County, Carthage, Seneca, and Sarcoxie.

Sheller says they will have "hit every school system in the area except for Diamond. They have a program they use through counseling."

She says the program would not have been possible if it weren't for volunteers.

"We have six women who we trained and they help educate the children in the program. In the beginning, they volunteered to do this. Fortunately, now we are able to pay them."

The program is available to any church group, organization, or school. Those interested in participating may contact Jane Sheller at Oak Hill Hospital.



## Latchkey Program affects lives

Continued from page 16

"I, too, want to say thank you for sharing your important information with us," says a teacher in a letter. "We appreciate you coming and teaching our community the Latchkey Safety Program. I feel that everyone who participated benefited in some way. Each session has been full of a variety of safety rules and procedures."

"The true value that we told, even though sad, really got the message across. I feel that this program is a very valuable tool to be used in the school setting for safety awareness."

One of the true stories that was used was about a teen who wanted to be an athlete. He started drinking and smoking marijuana, and was arrested. While in jail, half of his tongue was cut off. His dreams of being an athlete were over. He had abused his body with drugs.

Another teacher says the Latchkey helpers handled the difficult areas such as the ones above, beautifully.

Along with mailing letters, members of the program, the school children also send pictures. One such picture is of a house, with an escape route and a meeting place drawn in.

In a letter to Oak Hill, a sixth grade student says, "this has been the best week of school. Your programs are the best thing the school has taught me."

Sheller says the impact the program has made is explained through the letters.

"No matter how much we try to

teach them, they are only going to learn if they want to. The letters are a reflection of that learning. This lets us know exactly how the kids feel about the program. It's very gratifying to receive so many nice letters."

Sheller says the smudges left from erasing and the misspelled words make the letters even more special.

"The letters are just so cute," she says. "The kids may spell some words incorrectly, but they get their message across."

Though most of the letters thank the Latchkey helpers for presenting the program to their classes, they also reveal their secrets.

"Some of them tell us about people they love who smoke," says Sheller. "The kids tell us that they tried to convince their uncle or a parent to quit smoking. Sometimes it doesn't work, but the kids keep trying."

Other letters reveal that children and their friends have been molested. The children say the Latchkey program helped them to understand the situation.

"That shows us that we have reached part of our goal. We want the children to be able to tell an adult about their problems. That way, maybe we can get some help for them."

Maybe a letter from a grade school boy sums it up.

"Thank you for the latch keys. You taught me a lot about fire, choking and drugs. Please go to other schools."



# Shopping centers give added variety to Joplin

## Southside announces plans for new center

By Toni Wilson

Greeting Joplin residents and visitors as they enter the city, the south Range Line Road is a shopping center that in less than a year has become one of Joplin's most successful business areas.

The Southside Shopping Center has been in operation since early last year. The center is made up of 34 individual shops specializing in everything from frozen yogurt to popular music.

"The center has grown to be everything we had hoped for," said Connie Box, who along with her husband, David, is the owner of the shopping center. "It has remained the type of shopping center we had originally planned for."

Box said Southside was designed with the small businessman in mind.

"We felt that this was just what the Joplin businessman needed," said Box, "a place with affordable rent space that was located in an area that would draw a large number of shoppers."

Each application for lease is carefully considered by the owners in order to provide a variety of

**New Business:** One of the four-state area's newest shopping centers, the Southside Shopping Center, added a new dimension to the southwest corner of 32nd Street and Range Line Road in Joplin. (Photo by Louis L. Lakey)

shops and services in the community.

"We have attempted to provide mostly retail, and we select different types of shops with our shoppers in mind," said Box.

According to Box, a great deal of work has been dedicated to the appearance of the center. Attractive lighting as well as many flowers and shrubs adds to the sharp

design of the shops and buildings.

"There is not a lot of walking distance between each of the stores," said Box. "There is also plenty of parking for our aid shoppers."

An advertising association has developed between many of the shops in the center. This enables shop owners to advertise more often and at less cost.

"Our advertising association not only helps the Southside Center, but Joplin as a whole," said Box. "The opportunity for more advertising brings more shoppers into Joplin."

Box also announced plans for a new shopping center, modeled after Southside, to be constructed on Range Line Road across from the Northpark Mall.

"We hope we have the ground breaking in less than three weeks," said Box. "The initial phase of the center will include 10 or 16 shops, with the possibility of adding more in the future."

Box said the current target date for the completion of the new center is September 1986.

## Mini shopping centers are popping up in Joplin

By Rock Hughes

Mini shopping centers are popping out of the woodwork in Joplin, and Cliff and Carolyn Barker are right in the thick of it all.

As owners and developers of the Sunnyside Center, located on east 32nd Street in Joplin, the Barkers are proof of the success of the husband/wife business relationship.

"We bought the land in 1983 to develop our furniture business, and decided to build the center as a retirement investment," said Cliff Barker.

The Barkers received financing for the project in August 1984, then hired a Pittsburg, Kan., firm for the construction phase.

Ten months later they moved their two businesses—C&C Rental and Home Video—to the center. CJs Uniforms Unlimited (July 1985), Photo Express (July 1985), Heirloom Wood (October 1985), Fantastic Sam's (November 1985), Penny Power (January 1986), and Housecall Pizza (February 1986) came later.

The center is currently filled and flourishing, thanks to the Barkers' keen sense of knowing "what's hot."

"We picked 32nd because it looked like the growth is coming this way," said Barker.

Barker credits his success to he and his wife's faith in God, but has no advice for those contemplating a project such as this.

"We feel the Lord has led us here for this project, and He has taken care of us," said Barker. "I caution anyone getting into this type of project. The location is more important than the building. If one ventures into this, they need to do their research."

"These type of shopping centers are good for the local retailers," said Barker, "because most of them can't afford to rent space on the large malls. It's also a convenience for the consumers."

The Barkers have a combination of 25 years experience in the retail business. Cliff was formerly an independent sales representative for furniture stores, and Carolyn owned two clothing stores for 10 years.

**More shopping centers:** Area business and retail are expanding thanks to the many new shopping centers opening throughout Joplin. (Photo by Louis Lakey)

**Still prospering:** Main Street merchants, including store owners Jim George and Bunny Newton, believe continued growth of business in any section of the city will, in the long run, help Joplin as a whole (Photo by Louis L. Lakey)

## Downtown Joplin area continues to flourish

By Tony Wilson

With the recent growth of the Joplin business community centered in the east section of the city, questions concerning the effect on the older sections of Joplin, par-

ticularly Main Street, have arisen. According to Jim George, president of the Downtown Joplin Association, the effects are expected to be very positive.

Any expansion of the city, whether it be the Mall, the

Southside Center or any business is going to make Joplin a better town for everyone," said George.

George said there has been some speculation that the continued growth of Range Line Road businesses will have a declining effect on downtown retail.

This is not the case," he said. Downtown merchants approach business differently than these others. They attempt to provide quality products with personal service.

"The main goal of the Mall and other shopping centers is to bring in more people," continued George. "This is needed in a growing community; of course this will mean more people shopping in the

downtown area, also.

Currently, the downtown merchants have plans for changes in the Main Street business area. George expects the renovating and expanding of several downtown stores to continue but says the Main Street structure unlike the Mall and other centers is individual.

"The downtown Joplin business area is made up of independent merchants," said George. "Any major changes would have to be made by single shop owners."

According to George, working relations between the Downtown Association and other Joplin businesses have been good in the past. The groups are currently

working with the Joplin Chamber of Commerce to establish a working Chamber retail committee for Joplin merchants.

This committee will enable Joplin merchants to have an opportunity to work closer together for the betterment of the city," said George.

Chamber president Gary Tonjes said the attempt at establishing a solid working committee by both the downtown merchants and the other city businesses will mean good economic growth in the future for Joplin.

"1985 was an excellent year for Joplin," said Tonjes. "I think 1986 will be even better."

## Mall expansion to aid Joplin area

By Tony Wilson

"The Northpark Mall has it all. That is a familiar saying to the residents of the four-state area. However, it appears now that the Mall and the area itself are in store for much more.

Plans are already in motion for the expansion of Joplin's largest shopping facility. A move that, according to Mall officials, will mean big things for Joplin and the surrounding area.

"This expansion will move the Mall from a regional shopping center to a super-regional shopping center," said Stephen Holt, Mall marketing director. "We will now be on the same level as the Battlefield Mall in Springfield.

The Battlefield Mall has been on the super-regional level since its expansion in 1981-82, and has claimed a major portion of the four-state's retail business in past years.

"People will now come to Joplin to shop instead of traveling to Springfield and other cities," said Holt.

The total expansion of 292,000 square feet will bring the Mall area to a total 862,000 square feet. In all, 40 to 50 new stores will join the Mall's two new major franchises.

Famous Barr and Venture. Also included will be a food court consisting of nine specialized vendors to please any palate and a sit-down restaurant.

The expansion, however, will not only mean big things for the Mall itself. According to Ken McCoy, center manager, the addition will greatly aid the Joplin economy.

"First of all, the Mall addition will mean more jobs—almost 750 new employment opportunities," said McCoy. "There will be an increase in sales tax revenues for Joplin because people who used to travel to other cities to shop will now be spending their dollars in Joplin."

McCoy also stressed the added variety that area consumers will now have to choose from.

There will be no need to travel to shop anymore," he said. All of the major national stores will be here.

Construction is steady toward the Nov. 15 target date for the opening of the new section. Good news to many area shoppers is assurance that the present Mall will not close during the expansion.

"The workers will work around the customers," said Holt. "We expect no difficulties or inconveniences for our customers."



**Still growing:** Already one of the area's largest shopping facilities, Northpark's expansion will elevate the Mall to a "super-regional shopping center." (Photo by Louis L. Lakey)

# Quilting combines friendship, fun, and profit

By Sue Hopkins

No one knows for sure how long the Methodist Quilting Ladies have been plying needle and thread, but their fame as expert needlewomen has spread nationwide.

People as far away as California send tops for them to quilt. According to Neva Rouse, secretary of the group, there are usually about 20 quilts on their waiting list.

"We ask them to put their names on the list and hold on to the quilt top until we get ready for them," she said. "We don't want to be responsible for that many tops."

As many as seven quilts may have worked on each quilt, but how skilled are they in their craft? It is next to impossible to tell where one woman's work ends and another's begins. Twice a week they gather at the Golden Homes community building and begin their version of the old-fashioned quilting bee.

Active members are Rouse, Dorothy Bunton, Inez Thomas, Viola Baetke, Peg Van Kirk, and Thelma Linn. All live in or near Liberal, Mo.

Most of the members are widows who enjoy getting together and visiting while they work. Besides "having fun" and "getting away from home," they go out to lunch together each month. The club pays for their lunch, and this is the only pay from which they benefit. "It's a rest to me," Bunton said. "I get off my feet. At home there's the garden, yard...it's a rest."

Most of the women learned to quilt from their mothers or grandmothers. In addition to the work they do with the club, most of them piece quilt tops and hand-quilt them at home, also. They believe in the adage "busy hands are happy hands."

Linn said, "My grandmother thought if you didn't have something else to do you might as well get busy on a quilt."

Although not all the members of the group belong to the Liberal United Methodist Church, through the years the group's main purpose has been to raise money for the church.

"These ladies are making money while they play," Amy Thomas said.

Thomas, 96, is the oldest woman in Liberal. She recently had to give up active membership in the group, but still visits occasionally. She can remember when the ladies charged a penny a yard for the thread they sewed into the quilts.

For 250 yards of thread used, the ladies received \$2.50 for their work. The money was then donated to the church. At that time, they marked, or outlined the design to be quilted, and bound it at no extra charge.

Today, the ladies charge 10 cents a yard for the thread they use in the quilt. Marking, binding, and other related tasks are charged for separately.

For some of the women, membership is nearly a way of life. The club boasts second and third generation quilters. Rouse is a second generation member. Her mother, Inez Hodggrass, quilted with the club nearly 40 years.

Xora Spriggs is a third generation member. Her mother, Ida Nickerson, and grandmother, Emma Coates, were members of the club. She talked about the history of the group.

"I've been a member of the church longer than anyone," she said. "I was born in 1901. I can remember when they weren't meeting."

Spriggs said the club used to meet at the church one day a week. Members would bring a sack lunch and quilt all day.

"It would sometimes get so hot in the church during the winter that we would meet at my grandmother Coates or Mrs. Costlev's home," Spriggs said.

When Xora's husband became ill, she hated to leave him for long periods of time. She invited the group to meet at her home. For the next 25 years they operated out of the Spriggs family room.

Last year Mrs. Spriggs suffered two broken wrists in falls. She has not yet recovered enough to get back to active participation in the group. While she was hospitalized, the ladies moved the quilting frames to the Golden Homes where they now meet.

The Quilting Ladies have made a lot of quilts over the years. The most they ever quilted in one year was 29. That year they did several antique quilt tops.

The members agreed that picking out their most memorable quilt would be impossible. Various quilts stand out for different reasons.

Dark quilts are hard to mark and thick quilts are hard to quilt. They remember some of these.

One interesting quilt they remember is an appliqued quilt of cap decals, club insignia, and other memorabilia worked on a blue chambray background. It was made for a young man by his grandmother as a graduation gift.

Spriggs seemed to sum up the ladies' feelings when she said, "We've quilted lots of pretty quilts and people seem to like our work. We have a long waiting list."



**Fame spreads:** Twice a week the Liberal Quilting Ladies gather at the Golden Homes community building and quilt. No one knows when they first began quilting to earn money for the United Methodist Church of Liberal, but an educated guess was made that the group is at least 75 years old. (Photo by Sue Hopkins.)

**Lucy French, 85, has quilted since an early age:**

## Quilts are made to give away

By Sue Hopkins

She gives her quilts away nearly as fast as she makes them, but Lucy French, 3331 Pearl, will not sell them.

"I wouldn't take any money for quilts. I enjoy making them and I enjoy giving them away. I just don't believe in selling them," she said.

French, 85, has been quilting since she was a young girl. Her mother died when she was quite young, and her grandmother taught her the art of quilting.

In early years when money was harder to come by, she lined her quilts with feed sacks. Now she uses sheets.

She has quilted throughout her life. In California she set up her quilting frame in the garage.

She prefers to quilt on a floor frame, two long poles to which the quilt is attached and stretched between the two side braces. The frame is supported by a table-high stand. French says the best of it is to have the frame hanging from hooks in the ceiling. Then, when you are through quilting, you just pull it up to the ceiling out of the way.

About her quilts she says, "I don't really need them. I just love to quilt. I like to do something no one else has done."

She makes Improved Nine Patch quilts than any other.

"They're scalloped all around," she said. "I have no idea how many of them I've made."

French is making plans to

quilt a Diamond Patch top that she has finished. She wants to piece a Drunkard's Path quilt.

French said she enjoys staying home and quilting or doing other handicraft. She is not, she says, much for getting out and "gadding around." Several times people had urged her to enter her quilts in shows but she was reluctant to do so.

Finally, her daughter persuaded her to attend a show. She was pleasantly surprised she said to find that her piece worked and quilting compared favorably to those on exhibit. She still has been persuaded to become an exhibitor, but she knows now that she could.

"If it wasn't a good job, I wouldn't put out a quilt for people to see," she said.

A few years ago, French says she dropped by a neighbor's house. The children were still asleep, the mother said. French wanted to see the children so she tiptoed into the bedroom and was appalled to find that they were covered up with coats—there were not enough covers for everyone.

"I told that mother to come over to my house and we would make some comforts, and then I would make them a quilt," French said. "I just couldn't stand for people not to have enough warm covers."

That's what it's all about, according to French.

"Help one another when they aren't able to do for themselves. You don't pay me for that."



**Gifts to give:** Lucy French, Joplin, has been piecing quilts since she was a little girl. Recently she was given a quilted pillow. Always ready to try her hand at a new craft, she began making pillows. Just as she does with her quilts, she makes them to give away. Here she shows off two new pillows that will soon have new homes.

## Quilting

# Carson autograph gets top billing on local quilt

By Sue Hopkins

Inspired by a story of Erma Bombeck's "master quilt," a local woman was fortunate to get Johnny Carson's autograph to include in her "friendship quilt."

Janie Nissen, 3008 Delaware, decided to make a friendship quilt when the family moved here from Joplin, Kan. She provided people with squares of fabric and asked people to autograph or decorate the block any way they chose.

"I call the quilt '80 years of friends,'" Nissen said. "In a little town of 200, the church and everyone in town is part of your family."

Every block is different and special. Some people had their children decorate their block. One was signed by three generations of one family. The block decorated by the beauty operator includes a comb, and the banker's

block has a drawing of the bank. After the blocks were returned, Nissen and her mother, Verna Shandrew, embroidered them.

About this time, Nissen read an article in the March 1982 edition of *Ladies' Home Journal* about Erma Bombeck collecting autographs from celebrities and embroidering them onto a quilt. The idea appealed to her.

"I have gone to bed with Johnny Carson for years," Nissen said. "I figured I might as well have him on my bed."

She sent him a letter requesting an autograph and explaining the purpose. She did not know whether to expect an answer or not, but she hoped for one. Her hope was well placed, for she received an autograph and a sketch of a rabbit.

After the blocks were embroidered, Nissen set them together with narrow, yellow blocks, then quilted the quilt. The scroll design

she used was one the family had picked up on vacation in Tennessee.

Nissen's mother and Aunt Eva live with her family, so it is natural that they work together on projects. In the six years they have lived together, they have made a quilt each winter. Two of the quilts were cathedral window quilts. A lone quilt was made as a wedding gift for one of the Nissen's daughters. A centennial quilt with an eagle in the middle was made with their grandsons in mind.

Several years ago they acquired two quilt tops pieced by Nissen's great-great-grandmother. The tops were about 140 years old and in good condition. After they were quilted, they were presented to Nissen's twin daughters.

Nissen has the baby quilt her mother made for her and the first quilt she ever made, a baby quilt for her daughter. She thought she was finished with baby quilts, but a few months ago a friend had twins. Nissen made each baby a quilt. One of the quilts was a Sunbonnet Sue, the other a teddy bear design. When the twins outgrow their cribs and crib quilts, they can be converted to nap quilts, and eventually to wall hangings.

According to Nissen, not only are piecework quilts attractive and useful items, they serve as family albums. You can look back at the pieces in the quilt and remember dresses you loved, or a child's sunsuit.

"When my husband and I were dating," Nissen said, "we had shirts alike. Later, mother and I included those scraps in a quilt."

The Nissen family especially enjoys the quilt that is set together with blocks cut from a float their daughter, Nancy, drove in a college parade.

The best thing of all about quilting, said Mrs. Shandrew, "When you quilt, you get rid of your stress. You can't think of anything else and quilt."



**Here's Johnny:** A friendship quilt to remind one of old friendships is displayed by Janie Nissen, Joplin. While she was planning it, she decided that Johnny Carson must be an old friend as she watches him every night. She sent Carson a letter requesting an autograph. (Photo by Sue Hopkins.)



**Hoop quilting:** In addition to quilting twice a week with the Methodist Quilting ladies, Neva Rouse, Liberal, pieces quilt tops and quilts them at home. Here she quilts at a quilting hoop. Hoops are harder to use than a big frame, she said, but they are easier to fit into the space available in her home. This quilt is a pieced dogwood. (Photo by Sue Hopkins.)

It's an ancient, eastern art:

## Quilting has a long history

By Sue Hopkins

The patchwork quilt was the first art created in the New World to become important in the Old World. Quilting is an ancient eastern art, and has been popular in Europe for many years. Traditionally, lengths of fabric had been quilted together for warmth and beauty.

The scarcity of fabric in early America made it difficult to obtain bedclothing. Desperate women cut strong pieces from otherwise unusable clothing and sewed it together in crazy quilt fashion. Two quilt tops would then be filled with

grass or corn husks and wool, rather than quilted, with string knots at intervals to hold the filling in place.

As life got easier for the settlers, housewives began to take pride in their scrap quilts. They began to blend the colors, then cut the scraps into orderly squares. Women began to take pleasure in making these quilts.

Newer and more intricate designs and different color combinations were created. War or other political events often led to the creation of new quilt patterns, and quilters would hurry to finish a quilt before the event that inspired it faded into history.

In a time before women's rights were recognized and when their opinions carried little weight, many women expressed their views by fashioning them into a quilt.

Delores Hinton, in her *Quilting Manual*, suggests that "Perhaps some otherwise meek woman kept silent to his staunch Whig husband that he was sleeping under a Democrat Rose patterned quilt."

In recent years patchwork has been rediscovered. Old quilts and quilt tops have been used as decorating focal points in the home. Wall hangings, pillows, tablecloths, wearing apparel, and toys are being created in patchwork designs.

# Shoal Creek has tourism potential

By Cheryl Boyd

Realizing Shoal Creek's potential as a tourist attraction, Earl Pierson, owner of Holleyhaven, continues to improve his recreational-vehicle park.

Holleyhaven is located on south Schifferdecker Avenue, on the outskirts of Joplin. It offers canoeing, camping, fishing, and swimming.

"People in this area don't realize the potential tourism trade we could have if they would get behind it," said Pierson. "We have one of the best rivers in the state of Missouri. If it was promoted better we could have more tourists than Pineville and that area."

Pierson said Gary Tonjes, the president of the Joplin Chamber of Commerce, has been "a great help" on helping to promote Holleyhaven and tourism.

"A lot of our business is from out of state," said Pierson. "That's pulling money into Joplin and helping the economy here."

According to Pierson, being a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Missouri Tourist Association has helped business.

"We have brochures out all the center on the highway," he said. "Last year we got a call from someone in Houston inquiring about our park."

When people rent one of the camp's 65 canoes, they sign in their name and place of residence.

"We get a lot of people from Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and last year we had several from Texas," he said.

In order to better serve his patrons, a restaurant complete with an enclosed patio will open June 1.

"We are going to lease it to a fellow who uses to run Sambo's on Range Line," said Pierson. "It will handle package beer and even lottery tickets, among other things. We wanted to add these services so people don't have to make two stops, or go all the way back into town for beer."

At the present time his small shop carries items including ice, bait, and soft drinks.

Along with the remodeling of the restaurant, a larger parking lot is being constructed and the camp grounds are being cleared of old buses to make room for more RV units.

"Each year we make improvements on the camp," said Pierson. "Last year we added new shower houses, and the year before we installed the water and electricity. The vice president of Empire Electric was very helpful in getting our poles up quickly for us."

Pierson said they want to make the park one of the best in the country.

"When I purchased the first 10

canoes I felt like that was a lot," he said. "Now just three years later we have 65, and we will probably have to purchase more."

A group rate is given by Holleyhaven when five or more canoes are rented.

"We have a lot of church groups come down to take the float, but we have also had Missouri Southern's basketball team, the YMCA, and bus loads from Wichita and Kansas City."

Other groups Pierson said rented the canoes frequently are senior citizens, Joplin businessmen, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Scouts.

Holleyhaven also helps the Kidney Foundation with its annual river raft race.

"The money from every canoe we rent that day goes to the Kidney Foundation," he said. "For the last two years we have donated around \$250."

The regular group cost for a canoe is \$10 per day, and \$15 for single canoes.

Pierson said a church group which took a three-day float trip came in "looking ragged but happy."

"The group's leader said it was a planned experience to show them how to rough it. Although they were exhausted, they all said they enjoyed the float."

Pierson said it is better if a group calls a week to two weeks ahead of time, but if necessary he can pick up more canoes from a rental place in Carthage.

"We work together on our canoes," he said. "Some people think we're hurting our business by helping our competition, but I think competition is good for everyone."

Canoe rental, which usually begins the first of April, opened a month earlier this year due to the warmer weather in March.

The camp grounds are opened all year round. Cost is \$2 per day, with an extra charge of \$1 for electricity and water.

"When we first bought the land in 1980, you couldn't walk through the camp grounds; it was like a forest," Pierson said. "I don't think it had been cleared in the history of this place. Most of the grounds we cleared by hand."

The stream directly in front of the camp grounds, which last year was only three or four feet deep, is now eight or nine feet deep.

"When the construction workers were putting in the line for the new sewage system, the river flowed into the park," he said. "So before they finished they dug out the creek bottom for us. This summer it will be easier to get the boats in the water."

Pierson said the new sewage system should help in cleaning



**Shoal Creek:** Located on south Schifferdecker Avenue, Holleyhaven offers visitors canoeing, camping, fishing, and swimming. This year, owner Earl Pierson plans to improve the recreational vehicle park, and also add a new restaurant. The area is visited each year by a number of tourists from throughout the four-state area.

Shoal Creek to make it an even cleaner river than it is.

"The water has been tested regularly for a long time. The water company and EPA say it's fine for recreation, but the new pollution control system should help the cause even more," he said.

Pierson and his wife, Dorothy, plan to visit other parks to see how

they can improve their own.

"We plan to go to a park up near Kansas City, which we have heard is an exceptional park," said Dorothy Pierson. "I already have plans to put in flower beds around the grounds. We want a nice park where people enjoy bringing their families."

She said that although in the past

they have experienced some of the wrong kind of excitement in the park, closing off all but one road and working closely with the sheriff's department has cured the problem.

"There is really no limit to what you can do here," said Pierson. "We just wish we were 30 years younger with more time to do it."

## Recreation Sites

# Five-Mile plans annual spring reconstruction

By Cheryl Boyd

In preparation for the "hot and sticky weather," spring-fed Five-Mile swimming hole begins its annual reconstruction this month.

The 54-year-old man-made swimming hole is located about five miles southwest of Baxter Springs, Kan., just across the Oklahoma border.

"Each year we bring in bulldozers to smooth the pool bottom and picnic area," said Dewayne Treece, principal of Riverton Middle School and leaser of Five-Mile. "I've already contracted for the bulldozers, and they'll start in a couple of weeks."

Treece said the reconstruction process in which 150-200 yards of rock is contoured, usually takes three days to complete, but depends on the amount of rain received.

"We usually try to open Memorial Day weekend if possible," he said. "Sometimes, however, we have to postpone opening due to floods."

Once the clean-up is completed and the 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily season begins, Five-Mile offers 150 yards of picnic area on both sides of the creek complete with 40 picnic tables.

"It's great for kids because there's shallow water for the toddlers and a deeper pool with a rope swing and diving board for the older ones," said Treece. "There are no holes because we contour it smooth. The water is crystal clear and very clean. In fact, last year it passed the Oklahoma drinking water test."

Treece said there are two lifeguards on duty at all times. Since the swimming hole first opened, there has not been a drowning or other serious accident.

In the 11 years Treece has operated Five-Mile, he has not allowed overnight camping or fireworks.

"It's too much of a hassle to watch people, to keep it clean, and it takes a lot of room," he said. "Besides, people live right there and it would be a hassle for them."

One couple living there is Louis Daugherty, the daughter of the original owner of the swimming hole, and her husband, Dewey.

According to Daugherty, her deceased parents, Fred and Bulla Dardenne, had construction started in 1929 and officially opened Five-Mile in 1932.

"On summer mornings bright and early you could hear the kids singing as they came down the road," she said. "The kids lived in Baxter Springs and would get up at five in the morning and walk here. They would sing every song they knew to make the walk seem shorter."

From 1940-64 the Baxter Springs Scout Camp was located where the Daugherty house now stands.



**Popular swimming hole:** Five-Mile hasn't opened yet this year, but leaser Dewayne Treece expects to have the popular recreation area ready by Memorial Day weekend. Located just across the Oklahoma border, Five-Mile is a popular summer "hangout" for students in the area. Two of the main attractions are the cool, clear water and the low admission prices. For people desiring an alternative to crowded swimming pools in Joplin, Five-Mile is worth considering. (Photo by Cheryl Boyd)

During the 30 years the Dardennes ran the pool, they had four cabins they rented out. Two were remodeled and are leased out, one is used as storage for the pool, and the fourth is being torn down.

"They quit renting the cabins about 12 years ago," she said. "We still hear people saying they miss renting them."

Along with the cabins, the bath house is no longer there.

"The kids that walked used it to change in and keep their clothes there," said Daugherty.

Daugherty's family of two sisters and a brother did all the work from washing down the cement steps each night to diving to the bottom of the dam to plug the boards up

with paper.

"It's a lot easier now," she said. "There are no campers, so there isn't as much trash to clean up, and they hook up a hose to clean the steps instead of having to wash them by hand with creek water."

The greatest difference in the work load is the way the pool is reconstructed each year.

"My father dug out the pool each year with a couple of horses and a slip," said Daugherty.

Five-Mile has been open every year since its opening in 1932, with the exception of two years during World War II.

"The pool was closed for two years during the war because of the gas rationing," said Daugherty.

"People didn't have the gas to come out here and go swimming, so my parents just closed it for two years."

Watermelon feasts, fish and frog fry, and Fourth of July celebrations are just some of the events that have taken place at the swimming hole.

"An Indian family by the name of Harry Crawfish used to hold all day picnics on the Fourth of July," said Daugherty. "The mother would buy fireworks of all kinds and give all the children bottle rockets to shoot off. At night the sky would be filled with fireworks exploding, and everyone in town would come out to watch. They were just beautiful."

According to Daugherty, the children who used to swim there

now bring their children to the swimming hole.

"The ones that have moved away tell me they haven't been home unless they come to Five-Mile."

The cost on weekdays is \$1 for adults and 75 cents for children under 12. On weekends the cost is \$1.50 for adults and \$1 per child.

"To get to Five-Mile from Joplin you take the old Highway 166 (west) past the four-way stop," said Daugherty. "Right before you get to Baxter Springs you turn left on the last paved road. Unless the owners paint their house you can look for a large, yellow house on one corner and a green one on the other."

## Fortune telling, card reading, palmistry:

## Area woman uses psychic 'gift' to help others

By Keri James

When Sue was a small child she had no idea what life would deal her. But as fate would have it, it was all in the cards.

Now, at age 32, she is a professional card reader and fortune teller, known simply as the Soothsayer in a small southeast Kansas town. Due to pre-1900 city codes which cite that fortune telling is a misdemeanor in this town, she will remain anonymous.

While many people have been to visit the Soothsayer out of curiosity, she says that most of her customers are "regulars."

"I have a lot of people who come around just to see if I am for real," she says while placing the tarot cards in a design on the table in front of her. "With so many gypsies and unblessed readers around, they are smart to do so."

As she tells it, many people have been hoaxed by gypsies into believing that disasters awaited in their future, and the only way to prevent the events are to pay the gypsies a large sum of money so they "pray to the spirits that the terrible curses will not fall."

"After working the same for several weeks, they (gypsies) simply pack up and move on," she says. "I have never accepted more than my \$7 fee for reading. To me, more might put my own soul in danger."

She explains that every time a person prays to the spirits for a favor, the return payment is "10-fold."

"I know quite a few people who are witches and warlocks," she says. "But I have never wanted to use my gift in that manner."

At a card reading session, the Soothsayer has customers shuffle the tarot cards while telling her what types of things they wish to learn about. The shuffling, she says, allows a person's vibrations to be picked up by the cards. She then places the cards in a specific design, and is able to tell what lies ahead by the way the cards come up.

"I never tell people bad things unless they want me to," she says. "Once I told a woman her husband was going to die in three days, and he did. She still comes to see me."

According to the Soothsayer, people need the services of card readers to help them get through life with as much luck as possible.

"If I told you that your knees were going to fall down and skin your knee next week, you'd be extra careful next week and might avoid doing anything where you could slip and skin your knee," she explains. "The cards only tell the probability—people make them come true or not."

The Soothsayer says her typical customers are "beauty operators, homemakers, and hookers." With a smile spreading across her face, she adds: "My favorite are the hookers—they leave big tips."



Card reading has almost always been a part of her life. As a teenager she and a few girlfriends would travel to other towns to visit card readers. However, she says that she never really thought she might have a "gift" until visiting a particular reader.

"We were all sitting around this fortune teller's table listening to all the things she was saying to each of us," she says. "But when it came my turn she refused to read my cards. I demanded to know why, and she said that she would not read for another reader."

After graduating from college with a double major in history and sociology, she began reading about fortune tellers and card reading.

After predicting several things which were "astonishing to my friends," she began her business.

She says that because of the fortune telling law, which she calls "prehistoric," she cannot advertise.

A similar law was enacted in Joplin for many years. Section 1094 of Article 67 of the 1917 Joplin City Code reads as follows:

"Any person who shall obtain money or property from another by fraudulent devices and practices in the exercise of, or by means of spirit mediumship, palmistry, card reading, astrology, phrenology, or like crafty science, or fortune telling of any kind, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor."

The law is no longer included in

the Joplin City Code.

She says that during a recent trip to Europe with a friend who also "has a gift," she had some "extraordinary experiences" while there which have led her to believe in reincarnation.

"While there we visited the home of a rather famous person, and in every room my friend and I kept asking where certain things were. The tour guide was just amazed because all the things we were talking about had been removed or covered for over 50 years," she says. "Things like that happened all over the place. I have no doubt that I was alive in those times."

When asked if she has ever been able to predict any of her own

future, she replies with an astounding, "Yes!"

She tells of the time when she was married and had a suspicion that her husband was "playing the field a bit."

"One night it just kept getting later and later, and I just kept getting madder and madder. I just knew he must be messing around somewhere," she says. "So I jumped in my car with my cards, off looking for him. It took me about six hours of driving around, but sure enough, about 6 a.m., I pulled up in front of a house in Joplin and pulled him out by the ears."

"Sometimes it's not so great to have this ability."